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BUFFALO SOLDIERS: THE FORMATION OF  
THE TENTH CAVALRY REGIMENT  
FROM SEPTEMBER 1866 TO AUGUST 1867

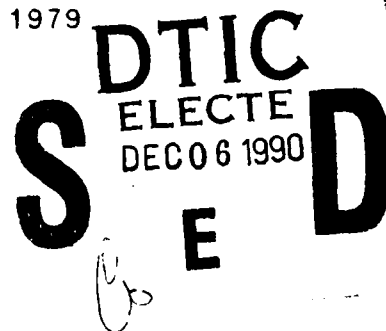
A thesis presented to the Faculty of the U.S. Army  
Command and General Staff College in partial  
fulfillment of the requirement for the  
degree

MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

by

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B.S., Northern Illinois University, 1968  
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Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
1990



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MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

THESIS APPROVAL PAGE

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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of  
the student author and do not necessarily represent the  
views of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College  
or any other governmental agency. (References to this  
study should include the foregoing statement.)

## ABSTRACT

**BUFFALO SOLDIERS: THE FORMATION OF THE TENTH CAVALRY REGIMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 1866 TO AUGUST 1867**, by Major(P) Anita Williams McMiller, U. S. Army, 109 pages.

This study documents the history of the Tenth's formation at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from 25 September 1866 to 5 August 1867. The study's focus is on the assignment of personnel, training of recruits, and the events surrounding the activation of the individual companies.

An overview of the Black American military experience prior to 1866 summarizes military and related events to provide the context for the formation of the Tenth. A summary of the legislation that formed the Tenth is also included. In addition to the detailed chronology of events, the study documents the leadership and professional influence of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, the regimental commander.

The study concludes that as a result of the regiment's formation at Leavenworth, the Tenth performed its first missions successfully, and subsequently helped to settle the West. The conclusion includes suggestions and areas for further study.

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I am indebted to two library staffs. In Springfield, Illinois, Cheryl Schnirring and Dennis E. Suttles at the Illinois State Historical Library assisted with my research in the Grierson Collection while Carol Ramkey, Betty Bohannon, Pat Wells, Barbara Sonnenmoser and Mary Jo Nelson of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) library staff at Leavenworth continually provided invaluable research assistance.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### THESIS BACKGROUND

On 28 July 1866, Congress enacted legislation to reorganize and restructure the United States Army. In addition to restructuring the Army, the Army Reorganization Act authorized the establishment of six black regiments: four infantry regiments, the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-first; and two calvary regiments, the Ninth and Tenth.<sup>1</sup> The Act revolutionized the Army. For the first time in the history of the United States, black Americans would serve in the Regular peacetime Army.

After their formation in 1866, the regiments gained a reputation for bravery, and the sentiments of many who had first opposed the use of blacks as soldiers changed. Originally one of those opposed to blacks as soldiers, General William T. Sherman, reversed his view and encouraged the integration of blacks throughout the Army. In 1876 he wrote that "time would soon ...obliterate the

old prejudices that led to the formation of colored cavalry and infantry."<sup>2</sup>

Along with the other cavalry units, the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry regiments gained prominence fighting Indians on the western plains during an era when the perception was the mounted forces were more effective than infantry in engagements against the Indians.<sup>3</sup> The Indians respected the black cavalrymen's bravery, and reportedly called them "Buffalo Soldiers", after the buffalo whom they held in high esteem. Others claim the name was a result of the cavalrymen fierce fighting, while wearing buffalo coats during winter campaigns.<sup>4</sup> Regardless of the source of the name, the buffalo soldiers played an important role in the American West.

This thesis's focus is one of those Buffalo Soldier regiments, the Tenth Cavalry. Formed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in September 1866, the unit became a legend in western history.<sup>5</sup> In spite of racial discrimination, the Tenth was immediately successful.<sup>6</sup> General John J. Pershing, continually praised the unit throughout his distinguished career. In 1921, General Pershing wrote:

It has been an honor which I am proud to claim to have been at one time a member of that intrepid organization of the Army which has always added glory to the military history of America, the 10th Cavalry.<sup>7</sup>

For the first twenty years following its formation, the regiment fought in campaigns against the Indians on the

western frontier.<sup>8</sup> These calvary men fought and died to protect western settlers. They guarded workers constructing the railroads, protected towns, and secured western posts. The Tenth was instrumental in advancing civilization along America's last continental frontier.<sup>9</sup>

The regiment's service continued after the Indian Wars. The Tenth fought in the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Expedition, and World War II. The regiment also served in Vietnam as an integrated unit.<sup>10</sup> Appendix A details the regiment's lineage, honors and campaign participation.

#### THESIS PURPOSE

This thesis details the early history of the unit's formation at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from 25 September 1866 to 5 August 1867.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study provides the story of the unit's formation. How was the Tenth formed? What occurred during that first year of the unit's formation? These questions exist because there is not a comprehensive history of the regiment's formation.

### LIMITATIONS/DELIMITATIONS

I limited the scope of this paper to control the length. Given the extensive history of this regiment, I elected to study only its formation period. Certainly, the full story of the formation of the Tenth Regiment would address the politics of getting the legislation passed. Of course, the actions which took place between July 1866 and September 1866 had an impact on the unit's formation. However, important events occurred between September 1866 and August 1867, and that is the focus of the thesis.

Concentrating on a particular aspect of the formation process provided the second restricting element. Activating a unit involved, at a minimum, several factors: 1) personnel-assigning soldiers to a unit, 2) equipping-providing what the unit needs to function, and 3) training-developing soldier skills. I elected to focus on the personnel and initial training components.

The overview of the Black American military experience in Chapter IV provides only a brief summary of military and related events to provide the context for the formation of the Tenth.

### RESEARCH QUESTION

As it pertains to personnel, what was the history (events) of the unit's first year of organization?

The following subordinate questions are related:

- a. How did the Tenth recruit personnel?
- b. How was the regiment organized?
- c. What were the effects of military leadership within the Tenth?

### THESIS ORGANIZATION

Chapter II contains the review of literature. Chapter III cites the research methodology used for the study. Chapter IV summarizes the Black American military experience up to the end of the Civil War. The chapter further analyzes the legislation which formed the Tenth. Chapter V provides the history of the formation of the Tenth in chronological sequence. Chapter VI contains conclusions and suggestions of areas for further study.

## CHAPTER ONE ENDNOTES

1. U.S. Congress, Senate, Congressional Globe, 39th Congress, 1st Session, 28 July 1866. Also: War Department, Adjutant General's Office, General Order No. 56, 7 Aug 1866, The Negro in Military Service of the United States, 1639-1886, Microfilm M858, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Quoted in James A. Garfield, "The Army of the United States, " North American Review, (March-April, 1878), 206.
3. Mary Lee Stubbs and Stanley Russell Connor, Army Lineage Series, Armor-Cavalry: Part I Regular Army and Army Reserve. (Washington, D. C.: Office of The Chief of Military History, United States Army, 1969) p. 20.
4. George Walton, Sentinel Of The Plains: Fort Leavenworth and The American West. (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1973), p. 144.
5. William Loren Katz, The Black West (Garden City NY: Doubleday, 1971), p. 210.
6. Bernard C. Nalty, Strength For The Fight. (New York: MacMillan, 1984) p. 52.
7. E.L.N. Glass, The History of the Tenth Cavalry 1866-1921. (Ft. Collins, CO: The Old Army Press, 1972), p. 212. The quote is also cited in Katz, p. 212.
8. Herschel V. Cashin, et al Under Fire with the Tenth U.S. Cavalry (New York: F. Tennyson Neely, 1899) p.24.
9. William H. Leckie, Buffalo Soldiers (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1984) p. 259-260.
10. Stubbs and Connor p. 201-209.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

I separated the literature into four categories. The literature on general military references comprises the first category, Literature on the Civil War Army constitutes the second, post-Civil War forms the third, and Black American military literature is the fourth category. Additional references are included in the bibliography.

#### General Reference Literature

This category includes general literature on the history of the United States Army from the American Revolution through the twentieth century. The references provided necessary background and overview for the thesis.

In his two books, Towards an American Army (1962) and History of the United States Army (1967), Russell F. Weigley's focuses on the Army's institutional development. Both references survey military policy from the American Revolution through the Vietnam War.



Likewise, Maurice Matloff's American Military History (1924) is another general reference. Although less detailed than Weigley, Matloff's work provides an overview of the operational and institutional history of the Army.

Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski's For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America (1984) is also a comprehensive survey of the United States Army's policies, and campaigns.

Jim Dan Hill's The Minute Man in Peace and War (1964) is a comprehensive history of the National Guard. In his book, Hill reaffirms General John A. Logan's theories of the superiority of the citizen soldier over the professionals.

John K. Mahon's History of the Militia and the National Guard reviews the history of the National Guard from its founding to the 1970's. Mahon lists names, dates and places of significant events along with an analysis of how state and national political events shaped the history of the militia.

The Story of the U.S. Cavalry (1953) by Major General John K. Herr and Edward S. Wallace, is the history of the American cavalry from its inception in the Revolutionary War to 1942. Interesting and informative, Herr and Wallace's book is a companion work to the Armor-Cavalry, Part I, Army Lineage Series by Mary Lee

Stubbs and Stanley Russell Connor (1969). Stubbs and Stanley's reference provides the history, lineage and honors for all of the armor and cavalry units.

#### Selected Civil War Literature

This category of literature includes general and specialized references on history of the United States Army, during the Civil War.

The textbook, The Civil War and Reconstruction (1969) by J. G. Randall and David Donald, is a good, one volume overview of the Civil War. The book also contains an excellent annotated bibliography.

One of the best of the Civil War references is Allan Nevins's eight volume, Ordeal of the Union (1959-1971). The last four volumes, The Improvised War; War Becomes Revolution; The Organized War and The Organized War to Victory, focus on Lincoln and the North's conduct of war.

Bruce Catton's numerous books are well written and interesting. His Short History of the Civil War as well as two trilogies provide an overview of the period. The books-Mr. Lincoln's Army, Glory Road, and Stillness at Appomattox (1951-1953) focus on the Army of the Potomac; the trilogy, The Coming Fury, Terrible Swift Sword, and

Never Call Retreat (1961-1965) provides a centennial history of the war.

In How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War (1983), Herman Hattaway and Archer Jones present an overview of military operations during the Civil War.

T. Harry Williams provides an interesting overview of Lincoln as a strategist in his book, Lincoln and His Generals (1952).

#### Civil War First-Hand Account

In his book, Army Life In A Black Regiment (1984), Thomas Wentworth Higginson wrote of his command experiences during the Civil War. Higginson commanded the first South Carolina slave regiment.

#### Selected Literature on Black Soldiers in the Civil War Army

The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865 (1956) by Dudley T. Cornish is a study of black soldiers during the Civil War. The book also provides information on western black cavalrymen.

### Selected Post-Civil War Literature

The post-Civil War period is also called the Indian War, Interwar, Reconstruction, and Frontier period in America. All of these terms encompass the period between 1866 and 1898 in the United States. In this study the "post-Civil War" includes all of the aforementioned terms.

The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898 (1986) by Edward M. Coffman provides a comprehensive discussion of the Army and army life from 1784 to 1898. Its principle value to this study is as a general reference for both the pre-Civil War and post-Civil War Army.

The Tenth Cavalry (1921) by Major E. L. N. Glass is the unofficial history of the regiment. Glass provides selected information on the regiment from its formation in 1866 until 1921. In his history, Glass does not cover the first year of the regiment's formation in any depth.

Robert M. Utley's book, Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and the Indian, 1866-1891 (1973) is a general reference on the post-Civil War. Utley provides a comprehensive account of the Army's conquest of the Indians, as well as the organization and operation of the Army in the West.

In his book, Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay, (1963) Don Rickey provides insight on the enlisted men in the Regular Army from 1866-1891. The book's subjects are

the experiences of, and the cavalrymen's role on the frontier.

Jack D. Foner's book, The United States Soldiers Between Two Wars: Army Life and Reforms, 1865-1898 (1970) studies problems of the post-Civil War Army. A well documented source on desertion and the army reform movement, it compliments Rickey's detailed study on enlisted men. Foner devotes the final chapter to a discussion of "The Negro In The Post-Civil War Army." He too neglects the formative year.

#### Selected Literature On Black Americans in the Military

Strength For The Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military (1984) by Bernard C. Nalty is a comprehensive survey of Blacks in the armed services. Nalty's book is a scholarly, general reference history of the black military experience.

Jack D. Foner's Blacks and the Military in American History (1974) is another general reference source on the black military experience. Foner presents a discussion of blacks in the post-Civil War Army.

Benjamin Quarles' The Negro in the Making of America (1969) provides a comprehensive history of Black Americans. Quarles' book is an excellent overview and history of Black Americans in the United States.

William H. Leckie's book, The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West (1967) is a study of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry regiments. The book provides an overview of the accomplishments and experiences of both regiments.

#### First-Hand Account

First-hand accounts provided interesting perspectives of the Black Americans. In Under Fire with the Tenth U.S. Cavalry (1969), Hershel V. Cashin and others, compiled first-hand accounts of the Tenth's Indian campaigns in the West and of their service in the Spanish-American War.

The literature on the evolution and history of the American military does not provide substantial information on the black regiments, although the units played a major role in the Army during the Indian Wars. Leckie's book filled a critical gap in the history by providing an overview of the accomplishments of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry on the frontier. However, none of the literature provides specific information or detailed accounts of the formation of the Ninth or the Tenth.

Using primary sources, I've documented the Tenth's formation by reconstructing the story from personal

letters, government documents, organizational records and papers. The available information is adequate to support and document the history of the Tenth's formation. However, because none of the original documents have been transcribed, time was a constraint.

The responsive library personnel and facilities at Fort Leavenworth, the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, and the Leavenworth Public Library provided research and invaluable assistance.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

While the historian seeks the truth in human affairs, truth is relative, limited by the available materials and filtered through the spectacles with which the scholar views happening of the past.<sup>1</sup>

This study uses the historical method. I researched primary and secondary sources on the post-Civil War period to document the Army organization and administrative policies. The sources detailed army missions, conditions, philosophy and reactions to the black regiments in the Army; subsequent research revealed the social and military resistance to the use and enlistment of blacks. Thus, the issue of the regiment's formation was far more than military history.<sup>2</sup> As Dudley Cornish asserts in The Sable Army, "American military history, by the very nature of our society and the organization of our army and our government, is more nearly social and political history than mere military analysis."<sup>3</sup> I expanded the research to include additional sources on military history of the period, after discovering few references cited the black regiments campaigns. From this basic research, I established the context and disposition



of the Army, and the supporting social context for the formation of the regiment.

The major research examined the internal events of the regiment's formation. I compiled all of the data from original documents, manuscripts, and the organizational records of the Tenth. The questions I placed emphasis on were: Who were the officers and enlisted men of the Tenth? How were they recruited? What was the morale of the regiment? What were the critical events during the formation?

I used the limited information in the secondary sources to help in the verifying of the data. As Maurice Matloff cautioned In A Guide to the Study and Use of Military History,

Evidence must be carefully weighed... participants do not see, hear or recollect with absolute clarity. Neither do they see from the same position or angle... Censorship may suppress facts, especially in news dispatchers and communiques. Military reports submitted to higher headquarters are not always complete. Important facts may not be known at the time; efforts and failure may be glossed over; rumors of dubious origin may spread rapidly and even find their way into official reports. Was the writer biased?... Even if there was no conscious bias or deliberate attempt to falsify, a certain amount of unconscious bias will manifest itself in any number of ways - playing down mistakes, exaggerating successes or failing to give credit to others.<sup>4</sup>

While this study acknowledges the inherent limitations of the historical method, the available primary sources were independently verified or evaluated against other available records.

### CHAPTER THREE ENDNOTES

1. Maurice Matloff, "The Nature of History" in John E. Jessup and Robert W. Coakley, eds. A Guide to the Study of Military History. (1982) (Washington DC: Center of Military History) p. 5.
2. Dudley T. Cornish. The Sable Arm, Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865 (New York: W. W. Norton, 1966), p. xvi.
3. Ibid, p. xvi
4. Matloff, p. 11.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to 1866, the black American military experience was a contradiction. Societal tradition restricted black Americans from military service during times of peace, then required blacks to fight during wars because of military necessity.

The Army Reorganization Act of 1866 authorized additional regiments in the peacetime structure; six of the regiments were black.<sup>2</sup> The act reformed the Army and reversed society's tradition of excluding blacks from peacetime service in the regular Army.

This chapter provides the context for the formation of the black regiments by summarizing the history of black Americans bearing arms in the United States prior to 1866. It concludes with the Act's authorization for forming the black cavalry regiments, specifically, the Tenth Cavalry.

## COLONIAL EXPERIENCES

The black military experience predated the American Revolution. In the Tidewater colonies, every available man, white or black, free and slave, served in the militia.<sup>3</sup> As long as there was a threat to the initial colonies, available men served in the militia to provide safety and security from the Indians, and England's European enemies, the Spanish and the French. As the external threat from the Indians diminished and peace was restored in Europe, blacks became the perceived threat. The colonists feared blacks trained in the militias, might lead to, or instigate slave revolts.

Virginia was the first colony to exclude blacks from the military. In 1639, Virginia enacted legislation to limit military service to free white males. Massachusetts passed a similar law in 1656; Connecticut followed in 1661.<sup>4</sup> Within five years, all the colonies enacted laws excluding blacks from militia service.

During the French and Indian wars, the northern colonies desperately needed manpower. The colonies revised the laws and required freed black men to serve in the local militias.<sup>5</sup>

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCES

During the events leading to the Revolutionary War, a black citizen was one of the first to die in the streets of Boston. During a street protest on 5 March 1770, British soldiers shot Christpus Attucks and ten others in the streets of Boston, Massachusetts.<sup>6</sup>

Blacks participated in other protests against the British throughout the colonies, and fought in the battles at Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill. While free blacks fought, colonial leaders excluded slaves from military service. On May 20, 1775, Massachusetts became the first colony to prohibit the enlistment of slaves.<sup>7</sup> The other Northern colonies passed similar legislation.

Service of blacks in the military was one of America's first national issues. On November 12, 1775, General George Washington prohibited the enlistment of blacks in the Continental Army.<sup>8</sup> He did, however, allow those blacks already serving in the military to complete their enlistments.

As the war continued, manpower shortages became critical. The Continental Congress imposed state quotas and mandated drafts. When the drafts failed, the states enacted land and money bounties.<sup>9</sup> All these programs failed to meet the requirements of the Continental Army or the militias, and military manpower necessity compelled

the colonies to enlist blacks. The Northern and Middle Atlantic States were the first to reverse the prohibition of enlisting blacks into the military. At first only free blacks were enlisted. Soon, the Northern states also authorized enlistment of slaves. As the war progressed, Southern states adopted similar measures. When the states adopted the substitute policy, black enlistments soared.

Many slaveowners avoided military service by sending their slaves as substitutes. A combination of community pressure and lack of funds to pay for a substitute compelled free black men to serve in the military. Also, blacks volunteered and fought as a means to obtain their freedom and secure rights as citizens.<sup>10</sup> Estimates are that 5,000 blacks fought in the colonial armed forces.<sup>11</sup> The majority served in racially integrated units.<sup>12</sup> A few Northern blacks received rewards for their service. They won their freedom and received land grants. Most blacks, however, returned, unrewarded to pre-Revolutionary War servitude.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Congress again barred blacks from serving in the national armed forces. The Congressional Militia Act of 1792 restricted military service to free able-bodied, white, male citizens.<sup>13</sup> All states enacted similar legislation to eliminate blacks from state militias.

## WAR OF 1812 EXPERIENCES

Although legally excluded from military service, blacks fought in the War of 1812.<sup>14</sup> The navy could not recruit enough white male citizens to operate its ships, and recruited or pressed blacks into service aboard ships to meet manpower needs. Initially, the army also barred blacks. As the war continued, the states enlisted blacks out of military manpower necessity. New York was the first Northern state to enlist blacks when the state formed regiments of black men in 1814.<sup>15</sup> In the south, Louisiana formed two battalions of Free Men of Color in 1812, to defend New Orleans. White officers commanded the battalions, although the company grade officers and the enlisted men were blacks.<sup>16</sup>

At the end of the War of 1812, the government did not recognize black or slave participation. The Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812, and required the restoration of all slaves to their owners. Former masters were compensated if slaves had been sold.

During the years following the War of 1812, the memory of black participation in the American Revolution and the War of 1812 dimmed. Social and economic gains achieved by blacks were virtually eliminated. The Army General Regulations of 1821, excluded all blacks from the military.<sup>17</sup>

## CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCES

On 12 April 1861, the Civil War began at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.<sup>18</sup>

President Abraham Lincoln considered the attack on the fort an act of armed rebellion, and declared that his principle war aim was restoration of the Union.

Initially, Lincoln viewed the abolition of slavery as incongruous with uniting the union.

Both the Union and Confederates expected a short war. President Lincoln requested 75,000 soldiers for only ninety days.<sup>19</sup> Black Americans saw the war as a means of acquiring freedom and were among the first eager volunteers. Initially, the Union government rejected black service. Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, declared "the War department [has] no intention...to call into service any colored soldiers."<sup>20</sup> By 1862, officials had reversed their position because white enlistments were not providing the required manpower. Congress passed the Militia Act of 17 July 1862, authorizing enlistment of blacks as laborers and for construction duties to meet critical manpower shortages.<sup>21</sup> Without official authorization, several generals formed regiments of free and slave blacks in South Carolina, Kansas and Louisiana.<sup>22</sup> Finally, on 25 August 1862, the new Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, authorized the



recruitment of black soldiers.<sup>23</sup> Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson of Massachusetts, an avowed abolitionist, raised the first black regiment authorized by the War Department in 1862. The regiment, The First Carolina Volunteers was composed entirely of ex-slaves.<sup>24</sup>

On 1 January 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and publicly approved the use of blacks as soldiers.<sup>25</sup> The 54th Massachusetts Infantry (Colored) was formed immediately after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The regiment and its commander, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, won praise for their heroic fight at Fort Wagner, SC on 18 July 1863.<sup>26</sup> Fort Wagner, a Confederate stronghold, protected Charleston, South Carolina. As a part of the major Union attack, the 54th led the assault on the fort. The regiment sustained heavy casualties in storming the walls of the fort. The 54th gained the Union an advantage by successfully reaching the inside of the fort. During the attack and follow-on hand-to-hand combat, Colonel Shaw, three officers and more than half of the unit were killed.

From a narrow military point of view the assault was without value. Hardly another operation of the war received so much publicity or stirred so much comment. Out of it a legend was born....Colonel Shaw and the 54th became symbols of the best that any troops, white or Negro, could do....After the assault on Fort Wagner,...there was no longer any doubt about using Negro troops to crush the rebellion.<sup>27</sup>

After the fight at Fort Wagner, black participation in the war increased rapidly. In 1863 the War Department established the Bureau of Colored Troops to recruit black soldiers and organize black regiments. On 25 March 1863, Secretary Stanton assigned the Army Adjutant General the personal duty of organizing the Negro troops.<sup>28</sup> The Adjutant General, General Lorenzo Thomas, exceeded Stanton's expectations. Enlistments grew and General Thomas quickly organized the United States Colored Troops. By the end of 1864 he had established fifty regiments, and at the end of the war the U. S. Colored Troops had "enlisted over 76,000 blacks in the Union Army."<sup>29</sup> More than 180,000 blacks served in the Union Army, representing ten percent of the union force.<sup>30</sup> An estimated 68,178 blacks died during the war.<sup>31</sup> The black casualties during the Civil War represented a higher percentage of their numbers than did the casualties of white Union soldiers.<sup>32</sup>

Given the opportunity, blacks fought for their freedom. They "realized that they had an obligation to fight for freedom, not just for themselves but also for friends, relatives, and strangers."<sup>33</sup> Through their deaths and heroic contributions on the Civil War battlefields, blacks demonstrated their right to full citizenship. The anti-negro feeling, discrimination and terrible conditions blacks experienced during the war did

not diminish their fighting spirit nor prevent them from having a major impact on the outcome of the war.

#### POST CIVIL WAR EVENTS

After the Civil War ended at Appomattox on 9 April 1865, the victorious Union Army paraded in Washington, DC on 23 and 24 May 1865, and then quickly demobilized. The Civil War reaffirmed Americans abhorrence of war. Neither the North or South had expected a protracted war, and the nation sought a return to peace. But the victory and subsequent peace left unanswered the effect of the war on black participation in the military.

The Civil War changed social, political and economic institutions. Initially the Army's military policies only reflected the economic changes. The large Union Army of the Civil War returned to the smaller, army of the pre-Civil period. From a wartime strength of 1,000,692 in 1865, the peacetime strength reverted to 57,072 in 1866.<sup>34</sup> As the citizen-soldiers departed, the Regular Army assumed three operational missions. In effect, the missions required separate armies. Congress mandated the Army perform Southern reconstruction duties. The Army also resumed pre-Civil War constabulary duties, of fighting Indians on the Frontier in the west, and coastal protection duties in the east. The army returned

to its prewar authorization of thirty regiments; that total comprised nineteen infantry, five artillery and six cavalry regiments.<sup>35</sup>

The Army Reorganization Act of 1866 altered the peacetime Army. It raised the total regiment authorization to sixty. This total contained forty-five infantry, twelve cavalry, and five artillery regiments.<sup>36</sup> Also, the act reversed the government's pre-Civil War practice of excluding blacks from peacetime military service.

Section 3 of the act authorized six regiments of black soldiers, four infantry regiments, the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-first, and two cavalry regiments, the Ninth and Tenth.<sup>37</sup> The Army Reorganization Act of 3 March 1869, consolidated the four infantry regiments into two, the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth.<sup>38</sup> Until 1944, the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry were the only units in the Regular Army in which blacks could serve.<sup>39</sup>

The legislation contained special considerations for the Negro regiments. Each regiment was assigned a Chaplain to perform education and spiritual duties in the unit. Previous to this act, chaplains were assigned only at posts and stations.<sup>40</sup>

The act provided for examinations of all the commanders of the regiments by a board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War.

Two years of active field service in the Civil War were required of all officers... two-thirds of those holding the rank of captains or above were drawn from the volunteer regiments and one-third from the Regular Army. Officers of lower rank were to be drawn exclusively from the volunteers service.<sup>41</sup>

The selection and appointment of officers to serve in the Tenth depended on the War Department's officer appointment and commissioning process. During the Civil War, the War Department created the Bureau of Colored Troops, USCT, to raise black units and obtain officers for these units.<sup>42</sup> The respective states commissioned black line officers before the inception of the bureau. After establishment, the Bureau for Colored Troops only "recommissioned" black officers; no additional blacks were commissioned. During the Civil War, more than eighty black officers served in the Union Army, including Frederick Douglas's son, H. Ford Douglas. Although the Army Reorganization Act did not exclude commissioning of black officers, none of the Civil War black officers were selected for officer positions in the six black regiments.<sup>43</sup>

The bureau sought intelligent, highly motivated and principled men who wanted to work with blacks. The bureau established a two-phased process for selecting white officers. The system required men to apply for a commission and appear before examining boards. The boards

established which applicants received commissions and the rank based on the applicant's demonstrated competence.

In Section 24 of the Army Reorganization bill, Congress extended the Bureau of Colored Troops officer selection process as a prerequisite for commission to all the new regiments.<sup>44</sup> After the bill's enactment, the War Department established a competitive selection system for Civil War veterans seeking Regular Army appointments and commissions which was similar to that used by the Bureau Colored Troops. The selective process had two phases; the first required all candidates regardless of their previous rank, to submit a comprehensive application for commission, and appointment in a specified regiment. A minimum application included a letter requesting appointment as an officer, letters of endorsement from previous commanders, records of prior service, and recommendations from distinguished civic or community leaders.<sup>45</sup> After successful completion of the application process, the War Department certified the candidates eligible for oral examination. The department then scheduled and convened boards of officers "from the arm of the service in which the applicant was to serve." Successful completion of the oral examination, recommendation by the senior officers and certification of the candidate's physical fitness were also requisites for appointment of officers. Though bureaucratic and time

consuming, the selection process was a means of equitable selection of white officers.

In spite of the Emancipation Proclamation and the black soldier's heroic efforts during the Civil War, the negative perception of the role and status of black continued. Southerners opposed the use of black soldiers in the South, and the Army demobilized or moved the remaining black soldiers to western posts.

Most Americans, however, viewed the post-Civil War soldier, white and black, with contempt; veterans and civilians considered peacetime service beneath the dignity of a true soldier. Most viewed Army regulars as vagabonds or do-nothings. An anti-military attitude prevailed throughout the post-Civil War era:

In the United States...this attitude traditionally permitted celebration of citizens-turned-temporary-soldiers who fought in wars but focused against those who made up the standing army....Wars were relatively clear-cut, brief segments in time. To conduct them, the government had to enlist thousands...in the Civil War, hundreds of thousands and as a result the military engaged people who otherwise had perhaps never even seen a soldier.<sup>48</sup>

Where the post-Civil War Army served contributed to society's contempt, and the distance of the Western theater from the population centers relegated the Frontier regulars to obscurity. Unlike the Civil War, when most Americans experienced the involvement of a relative or friend, few had relatives in the military. The military

represented less than two percent of the labor force and, few outside the military supported the Army's Frontier mission or understood the harshness, rigors and hazards of the frontier. Ironically, the western settlers were also contemptuous of the Frontier soldiers. Their attitudes towards soldiers depended on the proximity of hostilities or whether Indians threatened an attack. Civilians appreciated the soldiers when danger was imminent, and when the threats subsided, settlers preferred the soldiers leave the area.<sup>47</sup>

The bureaucracy of the post-Civil War Army was an issue, because essentially, three armies existed. From 1865 until the end of the Indian Wars in 1898, more than two thirds of the Regular Army soldiers fought Indians on the western frontier, in the "Frontier Army". The remainder served in the "Eastern Army" where the two missions were southern reconstruction duties, and garrison duties along the east coast. Officer and enlisted preferred the eastern garrison duties because of the isolation and hardships associated with frontier duty. The limited Army authorizations, substandard equipment and recruitment shortages which prevailed throughout the Frontier Army were additional considerations for preference of duty in the east. With the exception of one company of infantryman, all of the black units served solely in the Frontier Army.



The recruitment shortages and substandard recruits were major difficulties during the Tenth's organization. Throughout the period, the hardships and drudgery in the West contributed to the Army's recruitment problems. Recruitment shortages and the retention of quality soldiers were major problems in the post-Civil War military. Unlike the Civil War citizen-soldiers, post-Civil War recruits did not represent a cross-section of American society. Civil War soldiers were conscripts and volunteers; all the post-Civil War soldiers were volunteers. Few white men from the middle class enlisted in the Frontier Army; most white soldiers were from the lower class. Estimates are that native born Americans comprised less than sixty percent of the white regulars; immigrants accounted for the remainder.<sup>48</sup> White recruits enlisted to go west, secure employment or improve their life condition. Over half of the white recruits were unemployed before enlisting in the Army.

The four black regiments recruited only black enlisted men.<sup>49</sup> Few differences existed between the education and training of the black assigned to the Tenth during the first months and white recruits.<sup>50</sup> In addition to the typical reasons whites enlisted: blacks considered military service a honorable occupation, perceived the Army would provide protection from harsh laws, and southern injustices perpetuated by lynchings and

Jim Crow statues. Further, blacks sought to better their minimal life condition, and secure an education. Apart from slavery, few positions or opportunities existed for blacks in the pre-Civil War era. During the Civil War, the United States Colored Troops employed thousands of blacks in soldiering, and related occupations. The preponderance of black soldiers had been slaves, and Civil War military service was their first free employment. The disbandment of the U. S. Colored Troops combined with the unavailability of gainful employment outside of agricultural jobs became major inducements for blacks to enlist in the Army. Blacks sought to better their economic and social conditions. The Army pay of thirteen dollars a month with clothing, food and shelter provided, exceeded what the majority of blacks could earn as private citizens.<sup>51</sup>

Initially, Army recruiters enlisted blacks and whites; southern recruitment stations excluded former Confederates and recruited blacks exclusively. All the enlistment stations sent the new enlistees to Recruit Depots. Cavalry recruits enlisted in the Army for five years, and traveled to the Jefferson Barracks Depot in Missouri. The three year infantry enlistees went to one of three Infantry Recruit depots located at David's Island, New York, Columbia Barracks, Ohio or Newport Barracks, Kentucky.<sup>52</sup>

The recruits spent a week or less at the depot; the depots issued clothing, oriented the recruits to basic Army requirements and assigned them to units according to their enlistment contracts, and race. The clothing issued in the depots were ill-fitting uniforms and equipment leftover from the Civil War stocks.<sup>53</sup> Noncommissioned officer assigned to the depots, instructed recruits in personal hygiene, limited close order drill, and discipline. Black and white recruits resented the harsh conditions and treatment they experienced while assigned in the depots. Desertions from the depot or shortly after arriving into the regiment were common. After assignment to a regiment, recruits departed the depot and traveled as a group, in order to minimize desertions and to insure their timely arrival. A noncommissioned officer usually escorted the new recruits to the regiment. An alternative system existed. Recruits living in the West or those who enlisted with a regimental recruiter, went directly from the enlistment stations to their new regiment.

On 4 August 1866, General Ulysses S. Grant nominated a fellow Illinois citizen, Benjamin H. Grierson to command the Tenth Cavalry.<sup>54</sup> Grant based the nomination on Grierson's distinguished military career during the Civil War.

Before the Civil War, Benjamin Grierson was a businessman and music teacher in Jacksonville, Illinois.<sup>55</sup> An avid Republican, he had campaigned and actively supported Abraham Lincoln's presidential nomination. When President Lincoln requested volunteers after the Confederates shelled Fort Sumter, Grierson applied for a commission in the infantry.<sup>56</sup> In spite of a fear of horses, Grierson received an appointment as a major in the 6th Illinois Cavalry and quickly earned a reputation as a proficient, demanding, and fair officer. Grierson secured uniforms and equipment for the men, implemented strict training programs, demanded discipline, and instilled a spirit of pride throughout the unit.<sup>57</sup> Committed to caring for and training his men, Grierson personally taught the regiment's officers cavalry tactics. His high standards and leadership attributes gained him the respect of the soldiers and officers, won him command of the regiment, and promotion to colonel.<sup>58</sup> Grant personally selected him to lead the famous cavalry raid into Mississippi year.<sup>59</sup> Covering six hundred miles in sixteen days, Grierson won acclaim and an appointment to Brevet General. Grierson became a Brevet Major General prior to the end of the war.

An avid supporter of the emancipation of blacks, Grierson commanded blacks during the Civil War, and considered them excellent soldiers. After the War, Grierson publicly stated his commitment and support of the freedman's needs for an education, and better living conditions. His testimony to the House subcommittee on 2 March 1866 supported the establishment of the black regiments.<sup>60</sup>

Before his muster out of the Union Army, Grierson requested Sherman's assistance in securing a commission in the Regular Army. Based on Sherman's endorsement, General Grant recommended Grierson for command of the Tenth; the War Department subsequently approved the nomination. When Grant offered the command and an appointment as a Regular Army Colonel, Grierson immediately accepted.<sup>61</sup> Orders were issued, and on 10 September 1866, Grierson reported to Major General Winfred S. Hancock, commander of the Department of the Missouri in St. Louis.<sup>62</sup> While in St. Louis, Grierson visited with General Sherman; he also conducted the first business of the regiment, recruiting officers.<sup>63</sup> Grierson departed St. Louis and proceeded directly to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to continue the work of organizing the Tenth.

#### CHAPTER FOUR ENDNOTES

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud,  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.<sup>1</sup>

Colonel Grierson arrived at Fort Leavenworth, on 24 September 1866, and immediately sought space on the post for the regiment's headquarters, equipment and personnel.<sup>2</sup> As was the custom in the Army during the post-Civil War era, the senior ranking officer, Colonel William Hoffman, the Third Infantry Regimental Commander, was also the post commander. Hoffman's date of appointment to Colonel, 25 April 1862, preceded Grierson's date of 28 July 1866.<sup>3</sup>

From Grierson's arrival until the regiment's departure in August 1867, Colonel Hoffman's actions were major obstacles to the formation of the regiment. Hoffman's racial prejudice first emerged during the Civil War when as a Commissary General of Prisoners, he opposed the use of blacks as soldiers. His first directive, in response to Grierson's requests for space, assigned the

Tenth the unsuitable area of one mile creek, a swamp located in the only low ground on the post.<sup>4</sup> Hoffman demonstrated his continuing opposition to the black regiment by harassing Colonel Grierson, the officers and the cavalrymen of the Tenth.

The first regimental return dated 30 September 1866 reflected Grierson's priority: the return cited the number of required recruits as 1092.<sup>5</sup> For the next year, Grierson's priority would be recruiting officers and enlisted men for the regiment. The selection and appointment of officers to serve in the Tenth depended on the War Department's officer appointment and commissioning process. Colonel Grierson would find the system cumbersome and that it limited his ability to recruit officers for the Tenth.<sup>6</sup> A number of officers assigned to the Tenth obtained reassignment to other regiments. Some of these officers just did not want to serve with black soldiers. For example, General Grant recommended General George Custer and C. C. Wolcutt to be appointed as Lieutenant Colonel's in the newly formed regiments.<sup>7</sup> But both officers managed to avoid service with the Tenth.

Indeed, Colonel Grierson's first duties involved completion of the officer selection process. After only a few days at Fort Leavenworth, he had to appear before an

examination board of officers in Washington, D.C. to confirm his own selection.<sup>8</sup>

Colonel Grierson relinquished command to Lieutenant John Mitchell of the 4th Artillery Regiment. Fort Leavenworth, Special Orders 164, directed Lieutenant Mitchell to receive and sign for all the property of the Tenth. Mitchell's appointment was required because the one other assigned officer, Lieutenant Colonel Wolcott was recruiting in Columbus, Ohio.<sup>9</sup>

Though all officers were required to appear before examining boards, Colonel Grierson was anxious about the proceedings. However, his concern and nervousness were unnecessary.<sup>10</sup> Indeed, his board performance was admirable. By letter dated 19 October 1866, the board notified Colonel Grierson that he had satisfactorily passed the examination.<sup>11</sup>

While in Washington, Grierson continued to conduct regimental business. He encouraged Civil War veterans to consider commissions in the Tenth, ordered supplies and equipment, and reviewed the Adjutant General's regulations and records. Colonel Grierson also visited with General and Mrs. Grant before departing for Fort Leavenworth.<sup>12</sup> Grierson detoured enroute to Fort Leavenworth, stopping in St. Louis to visit his former adjutant and favorite, Major Samuel Woodward, who would ultimately join the Tenth as the regimental adjutant.<sup>13</sup>

Colonel Grierson returned to Fort Leavenworth on 22 October to oversee the organization of the regiment, and to secure lodgings for his family in Leavenworth. The first order of business upon his arrival was securing lodging and equipment for the incoming recruits. Grierson then located a house for his family in the city of Leavenworth, approximately three miles from post.<sup>14</sup>

The second regimental return for October, 1866 records the first recruits assigned to the regiment.<sup>15</sup> Thirty-three recruits came from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, the calvary recruit depot. The thirty-fourth recruit assigned, William H. Beauman was still hospitalized at Jefferson Barracks, where he had been since 29 September 1866. Three additional recruits enlisted in Leavenworth for service with the Tenth.<sup>16</sup> One recruit from Jefferson Barracks, Thomas Williams, joined the Tenth on 9 October 1866, and died of pneumonia the same day in the Fort Leavenworth hospital.

In November, 1866 two officers joined the regiment.<sup>17</sup> Captain James W. Forsyth joined on 14 November and assumed detachment recruiting service in New Orleans, Louisiana. Captain W. L. Davis joined on 24 November, and was also assigned recruiting duty in Memphis, Tennessee. Seventeen recruits joined in November; ten recruits were sent from Jefferson Barracks and arrived on 8 November. Five recruits enlisted from

Leavenworth, Kansas for duty with the Tenth. Two recruits were unsuitable; on 19 November the civil authorities arrested William Carter; another recruit, William Beauman deserted from the hospital in Jefferson Barracks.<sup>18</sup> Incensed at the report, Colonel Grierson insisted the recruiters maintain high enlistment standards, and requested the recruiters obtain educated men to fill the ranks of the noncommissioned officers, administrative, and mechanic positions. He instructed the Regimental recruiters to enlist only "superior personnel" and warned the recruiters that he would hold them financially liable if the men were found "wanting". The level of the recruits improved, but the recruiters found it difficult to meet the Colonel's high standards.

The small number of officers who applied for commissions in the Tenth disappointed Grierson. Many white officers refused to command black soldiers.

In November, Mrs. Grierson and three children, Charles, Robert, and Edith arrived in Leavenworth. Alice and the children were delighted with their new home and were happy to be united with Colonel Grierson.<sup>19</sup> Having his family in Leavenworth was excellent therapy for Colonel Grierson because his working hours were long and frustrating. The myriad of duties in the regiment required the full complement of officers and noncommissioned officers. However, Colonel Grierson

performed the duties of a full staff without assistance, and would continue the demanding schedule through December and the first months of the New Year. Lieutenant Colonel Wolcott resigned his commission in the Tenth effective 1 December 1866, and additional officers were not assigned.<sup>20</sup> Of the seventeen recruits assigned to the regiment from Jefferson Barracks in December, two were unsuitable.<sup>21</sup> The Leavenworth police arrested one, Private Bowen for theft. Another, Private Jones deserted on the 27th of December.

At the end of the year, the regiment was still under strength, and desperately needed both officers and qualified enlisted soldiers. The regimental return dated 31 December, 1866 reported the following assigned personnel.<sup>22</sup>

Commissioned Field Officer (Duty)	1
Commissioned Company Officers (Recruiting Duty)	2
Enlisted men (Privates)	64

Of the sixty-four enlisted recruits, few met Colonel Grierson's high standards.

At the end of the month, Colonel Grierson modified the enlistment process. He sought to enlist a larger percentage of the 1028 required recruits through regimental recruiting, and receive fewer from Jefferson



Barracks. Grierson was determined the regiment would have quality officers and cavalrymen.

In early 1867, to meet his goals and achieve the vision for the regiment, Grierson established regimental training and recruitment programs. He overcame numerous difficulties to organize the regiment's twelve companies. Grierson organized eight companies at Fort Leavenworth; the last four were organized after 5 August 1867, when the regiment moved to Fort Riley. All twelve embodied Grierson's vision of a quality regiment by maintaining strict discipline, demanding training, and unit cohesiveness. His vision for the Tenth Cavalry was a trained, capable, professional regiment.<sup>23</sup>

During the first months in 1867, numerous difficulties complicated Grierson's organization. Essentially, the difficulties were twofold; those prevalent throughout the post-Civil War Army and those resulting from commanding one of the first Black regiments. Grierson's experiences commanding blacks in the South during the War, had sensitized him to the prejudices blacks experienced. Prior to accepting command of the Tenth, Grierson had acknowledged he expected difficulties.<sup>24</sup> What the seasoned veteran failed to envision were the difficulties inherent with "peacetime" military service.

In January, Grierson accelerated regimental activities and implemented the two regimental programs. A farsighted and visionary leader, Grierson established a system of recruitment and training that insured the regiment would secure quality soldiers. In spite of his dire need for staff officers, Grierson sent the few officers assigned to the regiment, North to recruit quality soldiers.<sup>25</sup> At Fort Leavenworth, he established regimental training for all assigned recruits.<sup>26</sup>

Recruits began training immediately after their arrival in the unit; the soldiers quickly experienced a variety of prescribed, routine drills. Trumpets sounded all calls and assemblies. The duty day began with first call at reveille, and ended with taps, or lights out. Daily activities included three assemblies, drills, fatigue details, special and guard duty.

Grierson was a demanding taskmaster; he required the Tenth to hold three stable calls daily. All recruits received extensive training with their mounts, and guard training. Grierson considered guard duty to be the most important duty of a soldier, and critical to the regimental mission. He directed that all new recruits be immediately drilled in guard duties and responsibilities. All soldiers performed guard duty and special guard details; Grierson personally inspected guard mounts, and

questioned the men on their knowledge of their duties and orders.<sup>27</sup>

Soldiers performed numerous fatigue details. All soldiers except men specifically assigned to hospital attendant and teamster duties performed the fatigue duty details of stable police, kitchen detail, room orderly and a host of other work assignments. Tenth recruits provided the unit's fair share of labor for all post projects and maintenance.<sup>28</sup>

To prevent soldier boredom, Grierson had the officers drill Tenth soldiers twice a day, and during all of the soldiers leisure time. The drills served two purposes: the recruits quickly learned soldier skills, and the soldiers developed a team spirit.

Colonel Grierson accelerated the Tenth's regimental recruiting. In his January letter to Captain Louis Carpentar, Grierson directed the regimental recruiters to be more selective. Realizing regimental recruiting standards would initially reduce the number of recruits in the regiment, Colonel Grierson requested approval to limit the composition of the companies to eighty-four recruits. The January return reflected a regimental strength of seven officers and eighty enlisted men. Four officers joined the regiment; Captain Louis Carpentar, Captain Nolan, Lieutenant George H. Graham and Lieutenant Thomas

Spencer; sixteen enlisted personnel joined from Jefferson cavalry depot.<sup>29</sup>

Equipment and horses were a problem; the regiment received many substandard horses during the monthly shipments in January and February. Grierson wrote several letters and finally traveled to St. Louis to begin inspections at the shipment depot. Several times during February and again in subsequent months, Grierson traveled to St. Louis to inspect horses and equipment.<sup>30</sup> Shortly after one of the later visits, Grierson stopped on his return visit to Fort Leavenworth, to see his father in Jacksonville, Illinois. Grierson also stopped to visit with S. L. Woodward during his horse buying and inspection visits to St. Louis. After his return from one of the equipment trips, Grierson requested better quarters for the recruits. The post Adjutant, Lieutenant Ronsall replied that Colonel Hoffman "desires for the Tenth to remain in the present location." The Tenth's garrison location, the swamp at one mile creek, during the winter, continually flooded and whole area was a mudhole.<sup>31</sup>

In February Grierson formed the first company. Based on General Orders 1 dated 18 February, Grierson formed Company A. General Orders 1 designated Captain Nicholas Nolan, Commander of Company A and assigned First Lieutenant George Graham and Second Lieutenant George F. Raulston to Company A. Lieutenant Graham remained on

recruiting duty, so that Captain Nolan's sole officer was Lieutenant Raulston. The eighty-four recruits identified at Figure 1 were transferred to Company A.<sup>32</sup>

Grierson directed Nolan to intensively train and equip the troops. The Colonel intended to field the unit within the next month. Company A received priority of all designated horses until all the assigned men were mounted. The regimental total for February was ten officers and 123 enlisted personnel.<sup>33</sup> Thirty-nine recruits joined from Jefferson Barracks and six enlisted from Leavenworth, Kansas. The recruits from Leavenworth were excellent, however most of the recruits from the Cavalry depot were in poor health. In fact, two of the recruits, Tillmon Jenkins and Silas Miles died in the Fort Leavenworth hospital shortly after their arrival from the Jefferson Barracks.

In March the Colonel intensified the regimental duties. Dissatisfied with the low number and caliber of recruits arriving from the depots and the recruiting officers, Grierson transferred Captain Carpenter from Louisville, Kentucky to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He directed Carpenter enlist a higher caliber of soldiers suitable for assignment as noncommissioned officers. Grierson wrote Carpenter "you will enlist all superior men you can who will do credit to the regiment."<sup>34</sup> The regimental commander also required Nolan to intensify

Company A's training and unit activities. The regimental return for March listed 14 officers and 199 enlisted men.<sup>35</sup> Three cavalymen from Company A, William Jones, Stephen Hicks and Jesse Jackson deserted on 1, 19 and 24 March respectively. Two disabled recruits were discharged on 20 March. Four officers and sixty-six recruits joined the regiment. All but one of the recruits came from regimental recruiting offices (RO).

The recruits arrived as follows<sup>36</sup>:

DATE	NUMBER	LOCATION
1 March	14 Recruits	Memphis, TN (RO)
1 March	1 Recruit	Jefferson Barracks
20 March	26 Recruits	Louisville, KY (RO)
22 March	15 Recruits	Nashville, TN (RO)
1-29 March	10 Recruits	Leavenworth, KS (RO)

For the first time, the regimental recruiting enlistees exceeded those received from the cavalry depot. The quality of the recruits improved, but Grierson expected more. He wrote the recruiters to continue the good job but to improve the quality and quantity of their enlistments.

Grierson intended Company B's organization to parallel Company A's. On 1 April, eighty men were assigned to Company B per General Orders 3. The next day, 2 April, Company A departed Fort Leavenworth for Fort Riley, Kansas.

Unfortunately, personal tragedy preempted Grierson's plans. In early April, Grierson's sister, Louisa telegraphed that their father, Robert Grierson was extremely ill. The elder Grierson was frail and seventy-nine years old; Grierson's concern for his father temporarily overshadowed his work with the regiment. Grierson gave directions and orders to all of his officers regarding the fielding of Company B, Company C, unit equipment, and the continued training of the recruits. When headquarters in St. Louis approved his emergency leave request, Grierson immediately departed to be at his father's bedside in Jacksonville, Illinois. Robert Grierson's doctors advised that little could be done; the illness was terminal. Grierson remained at his father's bedside until Robert Grierson's death on 16 May.<sup>37</sup>

While Grierson tended to his father in Jacksonville, Illinois, Mrs. Grierson and the acting regimental adjutant, Lieutenant Alwood, wrote frequently of regimental activities. Early in April, Alice Grierson advised her husband of the status of the regimental officers, equipment and training. Officer changes resulted from confirmation of Brevet General Davidson as the Lieutenant Colonel of the Tenth Cavalry, and Lieutenant Spencer's incapacitation. Spencer's injuries resulted from a fall from his horse. Alice reported that the officers and specifically, Lieutenant Alwood were

following Grierson's guidance of training and equipping the regiment. The officers were drilling Companies B and C twice a day. All available clothing and equipment was being issued upon receipt. Fifty horses arrived, and Lieutenant Graham immediately returned from Kansas City to inspect and issue the mounts. Alice also reported that Colonel Hoffman was furious because all the currently assigned white troops would depart Fort Leavenworth on 15 April; the Tenth would be the only soldiers on Fort Leavenworth until Hoffman's own soldiers arrived on 20 April. Alice declared Hoffman's harassment of Lieutenant Alvood was because only the colored soldiers would be in the garrison for a period of time in April. Colonel Hoffman ordered Lieutenant Alvood to immediately draw arms for his company. Alice surmised "I suppose he has sent in the requisition for them."<sup>38</sup>

The regimental return for April listed the personnel status as 222 personnel assigned.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, Captain Nicholas Nolan, commander of Company A forwarded the first report of regimental accomplishments:

On 1 April, eighty men were assigned to Company B per General Orders 3. Company A departed Fort Leavenworth on 2 April for Fort Riley, Kansas. The unit traveled 120 miles, stopped enroute at Fort Samuel, and arrived at Fort Riley on 11 April. Departing Fort Riley on the 15th, Company A marched 85 miles to Fort Haskins, KS; they arrived on 22 April, and camped on Little Smokey River. The evening of 23 April a party of Indians attacked the guards



posted near the horses, shots were exchanged, and the band soon departed. From 26 to 28 April, the company escorted a wagon train from Fort Harkins to Fort Hayes, KS. From Fort Hayes A Company returned to Fort Scott, KS, arriving on 30 April, after traveling 325 miles during the month.<sup>40</sup>

Regimental activities in the last two weeks in April and the first week in May involved training and preparing Company B and Company C recruits for field duties. Appointed temporary commander of Company B, Captain John B. Vande Wiele, with the assistance of the other officers in the regiment completed the unit's organization and outfitting. Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth General Orders Number 21 dated 3 May 1867 ordered the unit to Buffalo Creek, Kansas.<sup>41</sup> On 7 May, Captain Vande Wiele and Company B departed Leavenworth enroute to Fort Riley and their final destination, Buffalo Creek. Lieutenant John D. Myrick subsequently joined the unit at Fort Riley.<sup>42</sup>

Company C left Fort Leavenworth on 20 May enroute to Little Arkansas per Fort Leavenworth Special Orders 97, dated 18 May 1867. Mrs. Grierson related Company C's stormy departure from Fort Leavenworth to her husband. In addition to his usual disagreeable attitude, Colonel Hoffman was abusive to the commander, Captain Edward Byrne, and the men of the unit. Hoffman rushed the company's departure, sending the unit to the field the first time the soldiers mounted, and prior to the

completion of the unit's training or outfitting. Hoffman countermanded Grierson's strict training policies. Formed on 16 May, the unit departed four days later. Both Colonel Hoffman and Dr. Irwin were angry that Private William Grant, an extra duty hospital attendant was assigned to Company C. When Hoffman ordered the acting adjutant, Lieutenant Alvood to remove Grant from the company's rolls, Alvood refused. Lieutenant Alvood would not remove the man without Grierson's approval. Subsequently, Hoffman assigned Lieutenant Spencer as the company quartermaster. Still incapacitated from injuries sustained from falling from his horse, Hoffman ordered Spencer to accompany the unit in an ambulance.

Further, Hoffman directed that laundresses would not accompany the unit. Army custom of the era condoned the existence and necessity for laundress. Laundresses were wives or serial wives of enlisted men; the Army first recognized the right of soldier's women to accompany the units in 1802, when legislation authorized four laundresses for each company of one hundred men. From 1802 until 1878, the Army provided quarters, rations and medical care for more than one thousand laundresses.<sup>43</sup> By prohibiting Company C to take the women, Hoffman denied the black cavalrymen the rights of other soldiers. Captain Byrne directed the men to load the laundress's bags on the unit's wagons; he had the laundresses to walk

until they were out of the sight of the Fort, and then they would rode in the wagons.<sup>44</sup>

Alice's letters also related regimental news on the officer and enlisted personnel status. Lieutenant Kennedy arrived 21 May, and the New York Tribune reported four additional lieutenants commissioned and assigned to the Tenth. Lieutenant Graham was incapacitated as a result of a fall from his mount; the surgeon had set his shoulder four times. She indicated, Captain Robinson accompanied Captain Byrne on the company march, and assisted the Company at Fort Riley. Recruiting reports indicated Captain Carpenter's and Captain Badger's recruitment had improved.<sup>45</sup> Nine recruits from Philadelphia arrived 11 May.<sup>46</sup> Lieutenant Alvood assigned them to various duties. Colonel Hoffman requested eight recruits be assigned for post teamster duties. The duties disappointed the men as they had expected assignments as noncommissioned officers.<sup>47</sup>

Colonel Hoffman's orders to Lieutenant Alvood continued to contradict Colonel Grierson's guidance to field the units and personnel as soon as possible, away from Fort Leavenworth. Lieutenant Alvood sought to assign the new officer, Lieutenant Kennedy to Company C at Fort Riley to assist Captain Byrne in training the unit. General Hancock intervened. In anticipation of a congressional committee investigating Indian affairs

arriving at Fort Leavenworth, General Hancock needed a mounted escort. Hancock directed Lieutenant Alvood to keep Lieutenant Kennedy and enough of the Tenth's troops at Leavenworth to supply the mounted guard. He directed all other personnel assigned in accordance with Colonel Grierson's guidance.<sup>48</sup> The regimental return for May, 1867 reflected the personnel as 412 personnel assigned.<sup>49</sup>

Captain Vande Wiele advised that Company B was safe at Buffalo Creek; the men and horses were all doing well. Shortly after the arrival of Vande Weile's letter, Colonel Hoffman informed Mrs. Vande Wiele to vacate her quarters. The abuse of General Hoffman lowered the morale of all the Tenth; officers, men and wives.<sup>50</sup>

Prior to departing Jacksonville, Illinois, Colonel Grierson buried his father, initiated the process of probating the estate of Robert Grierson, and rented the Jacksonville home. Enroute to Fort Leavenworth, Grierson stopped in St. Louis to advise the headquarters of his return to the Tenth. Alice and Lieutenant Alvood's letters had already related the deteriorating conditions at the post. The specifics of Colonel Hoffman's abuse of the regiment's officers and men was undoubtedly discussed during Grierson's visit in St. Louis. During the visit, the Headquarters approved the Tenth's accelerated departure from Ft. Leavenworth. Special Orders 122 and

136 directed the immediate reassignment of four officers.<sup>51</sup> Perhaps Grierson personally hand-carried the orders. In any event prior to his return, the Colonel took actions to begin the move of the regiment from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley.

Colonel Grierson arrived back at Fort Leavenworth on 3 June and immediately resumed command of the unit.<sup>52</sup> He determined that conditions were worst than he expected. Grierson immediately began reassigning all of his officers in preparation for the regiment's move. He appointed Lieutenant Henry E. Alvood regimental adjutant, and Grierson ordered Company D to complete their organization in the field, at Fort Gibson. Company E was also ordered to complete organization and training in the field. Grierson then directed the units to depart immediately. In accordance with Grierson's directives, Alvood executed the following:

Assigned Captain J. W. Walsh as Commander, Company D effective 1 June per Special Orders (SO) 122, and organization of Company D effective 1 June 1867. Walsh departed for Fort Gibson on 5 June 1867.

Assigned Lieutenant Robert Grant to Company D effective 1 June per SO 122. Grant departed for Fort Gibson on 5 June 1867.

Assigned Lieutenant Pratt to Company D effective 1 June per SO 122. Pratt departed for Fort Gibson on 7 June 1867.

Assigned Captain George Robinson as Commander, Company E effective 5 June per SO 136. Organization of Company E effective 15 June 1867. Robinson would depart for Fort Gibson on 26 June.

Assigned Captain George Armes as Commander, Company F effective 18 June per SO 136. Organization of Company F effective 21 June 1867. Armes would depart for Fort Harker on 26 June.

Assigned Lieutenant J. Tellonison to E company effective 4 June per SO 136. Tellonison would depart for Fort Gibson on 26 June.

Assigned Lieutenant John A Boxaner to F company effective 9 June per SO 136. Boxaner would depart for Fort Harker on 26 June.

Company G and H would be organized in July.

Grierson accelerated regimental training and activities. Having observed the low morale of the officers and men, he kept them too busy to have time to brood. The regiment trained and drilled seven days a week. Grierson attributed the regiment's low morale directly to the attitude and orders of the post commander. Colonel Hoffman's attitude was now abusive and unprofessional. Hoffman had detested the "colored regulars" on the post since their arrival, but had remained detached. Now he no longer contained his disdain of the black soldiers and their white officers. Additionally, as Hoffman's attacks increased, the other regimental commanders and officers verbally abused the Tenth. Grierson perceived Hoffman's

attitude and behavior as counter to the work of organizing and training the regiment.

At the request of General Hancock, Grierson hosted two regimental socials shortly after his return from Jacksonville. The Griersons entertained the Wade Senatorial party followed the next week by a regimental evening for Governor Yates and his visiting party from Illinois.<sup>53</sup> The two social events undoubtedly contributed to the feud between Grierson and Hoffman.

For the Colonel, the critical issue was Hoffman's disregard of Grierson's widely known regimental requirements and standards. Grierson attempted to work with Colonel Hoffman following professional military standards. Grierson advised Colonel Hoffman of the Tenth training and equipment standards, and requested Hoffman and his staff stop issuing orders to the Tenth company commanders. The Colonel requested orders be issued only to the Tenth Cavalry commander or his staff. Grierson's request and efforts to work with the Commanding Officer were to no avail. Finally on 21 June, Grierson wrote the Post Adjutant, Lieutenant S. W. Ronsall. The letter called attention to the Commanding Officer's issuance of orders directly to Grierson's subordinate officers in contradiction of paragraph 438 of the revised Army regulation. He requested "that in the future all orders and instructions to officers of my command...be

transmitted...to this Headquarters, that I may know when they are received (and who)...is to execute them.<sup>54</sup> In effect, Colonel Hoffman's reply issued by the Post Adjutant, was that his orders would continue to go directly to the Tenth Cavalry subordinate officers. The adjutant's note of 22 June stated:

It has been necessary in order to insure prompt delivery of orders from these headquarters that copies should be sent direct to the officers concerned rather than wait for them to be furnished from intermediate headquarters, but in such cases it should be noted on the orders sent to the intermediate Commander to whom copies had been furnished.<sup>55</sup>

Grierson's letter infuriated Hoffman. As the post commander, he resented Grierson's impertinence to question his authority or outlining Army protocol for using the chain of command to communicate with subordinates.

On 23 June, Hoffman directed Captain Robinson to keep his company at the position of parade rest, and to keep "those men" off the parade field. This order was an insult, and counter to the custom of Fort Leavenworth, and other Frontier posts. The custom of the day was that all garrisoned military units paraded on Sunday. Further, Hoffman's note to Robinson contradicted Grierson's orders, and directed Robinson to "respond to me (Hoffman) in person".<sup>56</sup> Earlier that day, Hoffman directed Grierson to have his regiment remain at parade rest when the other post units marched on the parade field. Grierson ignored



Hoffman's order; Grierson paraded Company F with the other units on the post. Completely infuriated, Hoffman countered Grierson's latest act of defiance by ordering the preparation and service of court-martial charges. These, dated 23 June 1867 charged Grierson with two violations, specifically violation of the Ninth and the Sixth Articles of War. The first charge alleged:

In...that...Colonel B. H. Grierson...in command of his regiment, and having been informed officially that it was the order of his superior officer,... General Hoffman...that the recruits of the regiment just organized as Company "F", 10th Calvary should be formed at retreat and inspected as for evening parade, and that then it should remain at "parade rest", on or near the company grounds, until the Sunday evening parade of other troops was dismissed, did on or about the morning of the 23rd of June 1867...direct and require Captain George A. Armes commanding...company "F"...to march his soldiers to the parade ground and take part in the dress parade on Sunday evening ...which order was obeyed by Captain Armes, and his company did take part in the parade as ordered.<sup>57</sup>

The second charge essentially duplicated the first. Although he directed service of the court-martial charges to Colonel Grierson, the records do not indicate Hoffman convened a court-martial board. The episode further indicated Hoffman's prejudicial and unjust treatment of the Tenth.

Colonel Grierson ordered all of his officers to locations away from Fort Leavenworth: Captain Robinson, Captain Armes, Lieutenant Tellonison and Lieutenant

Boxaner departed on 26 June. By 27 June, only four officers remained at Fort Leavenworth - Colonel Grierson, the adjutant, Lieutenant Alvood, Chaplain H. W. Grimes who joined the regiment 22 June, and Lieutenant Kennedy, who commanded the newly arriving recruits until they were released to the companies. Grierson also directed the adjutant to send as many recruits as possible directly to the unit locations. The regimental return for June, 1867 cited the status as 615 personnel.<sup>58</sup>

The final two units organized while the regiment was assigned to Leavenworth were quickly constituted. Company G was organized 5 July 1867, followed by the organization of Company H on 21 July 1867. By 21 July Grierson had completed the organization of the first seven companies of the regiment at Fort Leavenworth. The companies organized were - A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H. The final four companies - I, K, L, and M would be organized after the regimental headquarters moved to Fort Riley, Kansas. With one exception, all the regimental efforts in July involved raising the last two units, and preparing for the regimental headquarters move to Fort Riley. The exception was an unfortunate outbreak of cholera. The recruits experienced the worst of the epidemic. Nevertheless, Grierson directed all to move, both sick and well, because the regiment's location in the

swamp was unhealthy and contributing to the men's ailments and discomfort.

The regimental return for July 1867 cited the personnel assigned as 735:<sup>59</sup>

Assigned Captain L. Carpenter as Commander, Company H effective July 1867 per Special Order 130. Carpenter organized Company H per Special Order 151 effective 5 July 1867, and Carpenter departed for Fort Gibson on 29 July.

Assigned Lieutenant W. Kennedy to Company G effective 1 July per Special Order 145. Kennedy departed for Fort Gibson on 9 July.

Assigned Lieutenant M. Amick to Company G effective 1 July per Special Order 145. Amick departed for Fort Gibson on 9 July.

In August, Grierson received the orders he had been expecting. Arriving by telegraph, Headquarters, Department of Missouri General Orders 60 dated 2 August 1867 transferred the Tenth to Fort Riley. Prepared for the move, the regiment quickly completed the final duties necessary for their departure. Finally, on 5 August the regiment departed Fort Leavenworth. The regiment's arrival at Fort Riley on 7 August heralded the beginning of the quality regiment Colonel Grierson envisioned.

Under Colonel Grierson's capable leadership at Fort Riley the recruits emerged as quality soldiers. Training, and experience raised the soldier's esteem; adequate food and exercise changed their physical appearance. Also,

upon arrival at Fort Riley, Grierson assumed command of the post, and ensured adequate quarters were built by the soldiers for their use. The hardships of Fort Leavenworth and the abuses of Colonel Hoffman were difficult, and the Tenth's departure from Leavenworth assured the regiment's success.

Company A, 10th Cavalry  
Organized 18 February 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain Nicholas Nolan, Commanding  
First Lieutenant George F. Raulston  
Second Lieutenant Berry F. Bell

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Aldnge, George	43. Hornold, Aleck
2. Allen Hubert F.	44. Jacobs, Henry
3. Armstrong, Allen	45. Johnson, James
4. Brown, Griggs	46. Johnson, Robert
5. Bennett, William	47. Johnson, Henry
6. Baker, William	48. Johnson, Richard
7. Baldwin, Andrew	49. Johnson, Samuel
8. Bomen, Samuel	50. Jones, Wallace
9. Bomen, Austin	51. Jackson, Jerry
10. Bozier, Charles	52. Kane, George
11. Bennin, Thomas	53. Latty, John
12. Brown, John	54. Limison, Frank
13. Bummfield, Less	55. Logern, Thomas
14. Carter, William	56. Lee, Henry
15. Canie, Alexander	57. Lee, Herman
16. Caldwell, Arthur	58. Levins, John
17. Cummers, William	59. Marshall, John
18. Caldwell, Frank	60. Macon, Joseph
19. Davis, Silas	61. Miner, William
20. Dobbs, Scipin	62. Martin, Benjamin
21. Davis, Henry	63. Muson, Thomas
22. Dixon, Charles	64. Montgomery, S
23. Evans, Aaron	65. Perkins, Thomas
24. Evans, Henry	66. Rollins, Green
25. Gardner, William A.	67. Saxton, Sam
26. Green, Frank E.	68. Summers, Michael
27. Gibbs, Senior	69. Smish John
28. Granville, John A.	70. Sheppard, Bernhard
29. Gadmin, Willis	71. Strong, Christopher
30. Galloway, William	72. Taylor John
31. Hammin, Wyle	73. Thompson, Aleck
32. Henderson, Edward	74. Turner, Henry
33. Harris, Jerry	75. Taylor, William
34. Hays, John	76. Wright, Thomas
35. Henderson, Charles	77. Williams, Charles
36. Hokekins, John	78. Watkins, Major
37. Humkins Andrew	79. White, John
38. Hegwood, Samual	80. Williams, Henry
39. Hunter, Samuel	81. Wade, Henry
40. Huka, Stephen	82. Wilson, John
41. Henry, Thomas	83. Waman, Aleck
42. Henry, James	84. Whitworth, Judge

Figure 1

Company B, 10th Cavalry  
Organized 1 April 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: John B. Vanue Weile, Commanding (Bvt Major)  
First Lieutenant: John D. Myrick  
Second Lieutenant: J. Will Myers

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Adams, John	41. King, William
2. Aiken, Flex	42. Lee, Henry
3. Allen, Henry	43. Little, William
4. Alexander, Joseph	44. Logan, Jacob
5. Anderson, George W.	45. Loomis, Amos
6. Anderson, Robert	46. Mason, Samuel
7. Baker, William	47. Miller, Edwin
8. Boon, Andrew	48. Modelin, Alexander
9. Bumside, Robert	49. Morrow, William
10. Barton, Hardy	50. Morgan, John
11. Barton, Henry	51. Patton, John
12. Campbell, James	52. Petino, William
13. Carson, Hiram	53. Pope, Zachunah
14. Carter, James	54. Potter, Ewing
15. Clyburn, Peter	55. Pulliums, Alfred
16. Cooper, John	56. Reed, George
17. Dobbs, George	57. Reed, James
18. Davis, Cornelius	58. Roes, George
19. Davis, Samj	59. Royster, George
20. Drain, Simmeon	60. Russell, Moses
21. Elmore, Thomas	61. Salley, Coleman
22. Fry, Edward	62. Smith, Alexander
23. Foster, Lankin	63. Smith, Charles
24. Gabbond, Moses	64. Solomans, Abraham
25. Garcy, Charles	65. Skinier, James T.
26. Gibson, Robert	66. Stevens, John
27. Greson, William	67. Stewart, William
28. Grider, Henry	68. Sweeny, Robert
29. Griffin, Henry	69. Taylor, Walker
30. Haye, Henry	70. Wain, William
31. Hampton, Thornton	71. Webber, Perry M.
32. Harris, James	72. Wetherly, Richard
33. Harrison, Geoge	73. Whitehead, William
34. Harrilla, Lews	74. Wilko, Abrham
35. Hildrith, Sandy	75. Williams, John
36. Harward, Lewis	76. Wilson, James
37. Isaiah, Basil	77. Woods, Woodson
38. Jackson, Samuel	78. Worley, George
39. Johnson, Wyatt	79. Wright, Thomas
40. Kenedy, Washington	80. Wylie, Milton

Figure 2

Company C, 10th Cavalry  
Organized 14 May 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Edward Byrne, Commanding  
First Lieutenant: Thomas C. Lebo  
Second Lieutenant: George Taylor

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Alexander, Andrew	43. Johnson, York
2. Anderson, George	44. Jones, William
3. Ansil, Jeramiah	45. Kidd, Henry
4. Arnold, Joseph	46. Landies, George
5. Avery, Stephen	47. Lee, Warren
6. Baily, William	48. Long, Charles
7. Bishop, Alexander	49. Lone, Milton
8. Binns, Robert	50. Lynch, Washington
9. Bland, William	51. Mitchell, George
10. Balman, John	52. Mims, Charles
11. Bond, James Oliver	53. Patterson, William
12. Broomfield, George	54. Porter, Johnson
13. Burnham, William	55. Robinson, Henry
14. Camil, William	56. Roland, Samuel
15. Carter, James	57. Ruffing, William
16. Castillo, Pedro	58. Sawyer, Joseph
17. Chandler, Asphonzo	59. Schlass, Columbus
18. Clark, James	60. Sheppard, William
19. Corington, Wiley	61. Simmons, Anderson
20. Carvin John	62. Smith, Ewing
21. Diekson, Solomon	63. Smith, Frederick 1st
22. Dodd, Charles	64. Smith, Frederick 2nd
23. Duncan, Alexander	65. Smith, Mason
24. Drumman, Hamilton	66. Smith Mathew
25. Dunn, David	67. Soysern, Shelson
26. Fisher, Samuel	68. Stevenson, William
27. Ford, Thomas	69. Simmins, George
28. Foster, George	70. Torte, John
29. Foster, Lorenzo	71. Thomas, John
30. Gains, Henry	72. Thomas, Lankin
31. Gibson, William	73. Turner, William
32. Hailstalk, James	74. Watkins, Calib
33. Harris, Aleck	75. Washington, George
34. Hanes, George	76. Walsh, William
35. Hays, James	77. White, George
36. Hays, Jackson	78. White, Fitan
37. Hines, Sylvester	79. Williams, John 1st
38. Hughes, Isack	80. Williams, John 2nd
39. Hull, Thornton	81. Williams, Van
40. Jackson, Alexander	82. Williams, Samuel
41. Johnson, Green	83. Whine, Minton
42. Johnson, Richard	84. Woods Noah

Figure 3

Company D, 10th Cavalry  
Organized 1 June 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: James W. Walsh, Commanding  
First Lieutenant: Robert H. Pratt

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Alexander, Thomas	43. Kimble, Richmond
2. Anderson, Charles	44. Kurvey, Robert
3. Ash, Ruben	45. Land, Robert
4. Baker, John	46. Lee, Jordon
5. Bell, Lewis	47. Leely, Robert
6. Benjamin, Gordon	48. Liggins, Robert
7. Black, Allen	49. Lenious, Alfred
8. Blackburn,	50. Lewis, James
9. Boudow, John	51. Lyons, Wilson
10. Boyd, John	52. McKinsey, Meack
11. Boadley, Levi	53. Main, Mark
12. Bridges, Randell	54. Moore, Columbus
13. Briggs, Moses	55. Owens Stephan
14. Bookes, Albert	56. Perry, Jerry
15. Brown, James M.	57. Powers, Alfred
16. Campbell, James	58. Ransom, James
17. Carter, Frederick	59. Rivers, Willism
18. Clark, Charles	60. Richardson, Jefferson
19. Clay, William	61. Rogers, Samual
20. Clapton, Alexander	62. Scott, Robert
21. Colbert, Boyd	63. Shawn, Edward
22. Cone, William	64. Smith, Albert
23. Coutts, Frank	65. Smith, James 1st
24. Cross, William	66. Smith, James 2nd
25. Daniel, Thomas	67. Smith, John
26. David, James	68. Smith, William
27. Gray, Lewis	69. Sherwood, Edward
28. Dixon, John	70. Stone, Arthur
29. Davis, Charles	71. Taylor, William
30. Dodge, Cleveland	72. Terry, George
31. Dennis, Clark	73. Thomas, Willis
32. Enoice, William	74. Thornton, John
33. Fields, George	75. Tucker, Daniel
34. Fletcher, Stephen	76. Wade, Chester
35. Foster, Peter	77. Washington, William
36. Gilmore, Frank	78. West, Henry
37. Givens, Edward	79. Williams, Arlan
38. Harris, Jesse	80. Williams, Jaras
39. Harrison, Henry	81. Williams, Robert
40. Hill, Rubin	82. Williamson, Alexander
41. Hunt, Simon	83. Wilson, Henry
42. Jackson, Andrew	84. Winslow, Oliver

Figure 4



COMPANY E, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 15 June 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: George T. Robinson, Commanding

First Lieutenant: John T. Morrison

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Henry Adams          | 43. Charles Key         |
| 2. John Albert          | 44. Randall King        |
| 3. Francis M. Blaston   | 45. Lewis Laos          |
| 4. Charles Burnham      | 46. Lewis Lyons         |
| 5. George W. Brookings  | 47. Charles Livingstone |
| 6. Francis M. Brown     | 48. James Ligher        |
| 7. George W. Brown      | 49. Aron Lucas          |
| 8. Nathaniel Butler     | 50. John Lyons          |
| 9. John Carpentar       | 51. George Maxwell      |
| 10. Lewis Carter        | 52. William Mathews     |
| 11. Richard Clark       | 53. Lewis Miller        |
| 12. John W. Clarke      | 54. James Miles         |
| 13. Francis Clinton     | 55. William Miles       |
| 14. Adam Cork           | 56. Franis Minor        |
| 15. Calvin Craddock     | 57. Henry Moore         |
| 16. David Dixon         | 58. Samuel Marti        |
| 17. Washington W. Dumas | 59. John W. Nevitt      |
| 18. John Fittiswater    | 60. John Parker         |
| 19. Henry Fisher        | 61. Frank Perkins       |
| 20. Jefferson Ford      | 62. William P. Pierce   |
| 21. George Garnett      | 63. Nelson Piper        |
| 22. Franklin Gibbs      | 64. William Poper       |
| 23. John Gibbs          | 65. Tony Ratcliff       |
| 24. George Green        | 66. Edward Ross         |
| 25. William Greene      | 67. William H. Simmons  |
| 26. Robert Hacket       | 68. Augustus Smith      |
| 27. William Hale        | 69. James Speaks        |
| 28. Thomas Hamilton     | 70. John Tedder         |
| 29. Henry Harris (1)    | 71. Hardin Thomas       |
| 30. Henry Harris (2)    | 72. Isaac Thompson      |
| 31. Henry Hawkins       | 73. James Walker        |
| 32. William Hollier     | 74. John H. Washington  |
| 33. James Huley         | 75. Toney White         |
| 34. William Jackson     | 76. Peter Wilkeson      |
| 35. Frank Johnson       | 77. John Williams       |
| 36. Henry W. Johnson    | 78. Norman Williams     |
| 37. James E. Johonson   | 79. John Thompson       |
| 38. John Jones          | 80. Tede Wilson         |
| 39. Alfred Jones        | 81. Thomas Waley        |
| 40. Henry Jones         | 82. James Young         |
| 41. William H. Jones    | 83. John Brown          |
| 42. Benjamin Keconconda | 84. Henry W. Smith      |

Figure 5

COMPANY F, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 21 June 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
OFFICERS

Captain: George H. Armes, Commanding (BVT Major)  
First Lieutenant: Charles Banzhafa  
Second Lieutenant: John A. Bodamer

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Henry Acre	43. Edward Johnson
2. James Anderson	44. Henr, Johnson
3. William Armstrong	45. Mack Johnson
4. Joseph Ash	46. Wiliam Johnson
5. Arthur Baines	47. Emanuel Jones
6. Thomas Baldock	48. Robert Jones
7. Robert Bernhard	49. Samuel Lee
8. John Barnswell	50. John Logan
9. William Boroler	51. Hain Lowe
10. Perry Bright	52. James L. Lylte
11. William Brown	53. Issac Marshall
12. James Brown	54. Joseph Miles
13. Lewis Butler.	55. Filevions Milerton
14. John M. Carr	56. Alexander Miller
15. William Cristy	57. Charles Moratier
16. James Cincy	58. John Moore
17. Nick Cody	59. Charles Murry
18. John Crapper	60. John R. Niles
19. Christopher	61. Albert Patterson
20. Samuel Criff	62. Peter Pickens
21. Richard Dandridge	63. Moure Posey
22. Thomas Darcott	64. James Pierce
23. Daniel Douglas	65. William Richardson
24. Julius Edwards	66. Bill Robinson
25. Jacob Ellington	67. John W. Robinson
26. John Evans	68. Edward Scott
27. Robert Risher	69. Thomas Shepard
28. Benjamin Flowers	70. William Simmons
29. Jerry R. Freeman	71. Aron St. Clair
30. Christopher Garfield	72. Thomas Smith
31. George Gibson	73. Eliord Spriggs
32. Thomas Gibson	74. Henry Stephenson
33. Charles Bowers	75. James W. Steveson
34. Wilson S. Gilbert.	76. Benjamin Taylor
35. George Green	77. Charles Thomas
36. Lewis Hale	78. Jacob Thurston
37. Thomas Henry	79. William Turner
38. Charles W. Hicks	80. Lewis Taylor
39. James Howard	81. Edward Turkin
40. John H. Humphery	82. Augustus Wirley
41. William James	83. Harry White
42. Andrew Jenkins	84. Moses Worthington

Figure 6

COMPANY G, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 5 July 1867 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Henry T. Davis, Commanding (BVT Major)  
First Lieutenant: William B. Kennedy  
Second Lieutenant: Samuel R. Colladay

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. William H. Anderson	43. Alferdo Lokemon
2. Edward Battias	44. John H. Lusk
3. William Beverly	45. James E. Malone
4. Henry Brooks	46. Charles E. Mathews
5. Robert Books	47. James McLeary
6. Norman Brain	48. Elijah McNear
7. Arnie Beasley	49. Homer J. Miller
8. Harvey Cross	50. George H. Miller
9. Wilson Chapman	51. James Meine
10. Henry Clary	52. Andrew MacCrary
11. Fortino Coleman	53. Richard Nicols
12. John Collano	54. Benjamin Norris
13. Moses Daniels	55. Clarke K. Northrop
14. Benjamin O. Davis	56. Charles E. Perry
15. Charlie H. Davis	57. Andrew Phillips
16. John Dorsey	58. Issac Porter
17. Edward Dorset	59. John Postley
18. Ellis Moss Eglin	60. John Randall
19. James Ferguson	61. John Robinson
20. Mathew Feder	62. William H. Robinson
21. John Frederick	63. Hercules Ross
22. Issac Frisby	64. Base Sassdessa
23. Frank Grant	65. Isaac Scott
24. Edward Green	66. Willism Scott
25. Wesley Green	67. Williams Simpson
26. Charles Harmon	68. Benjamin Smith
27. Charles Hamon	69. Keith H. Smith
28. Haron Fill	70. John Smith
29. David W. Hubbard	71. Elder Steel
30. Ansas Higgins	72. George W. Smalls
31. Harvey Jackson	73. James Taylor
32. James Jackson	74. John H. Thomas
33. Henry Johnson	75. William Thomas
34. Joseph Johnson	76. Joyner Trickler
35. Isiak E. Johnson	77. Madison Viell
36. Charles S. Jones	78. Peter Washington
37. Clement Jones	79. James Williams
38. Charles Keates	80. Rodney Williams
39. George W. Kelley	81. George Wilson
40. Foichoill Latone	82. John Wilson
41. Frank E. Lawerance	83. Darryl Williams
42. William Liggins	84. Johnson Whythe

Figure 7

COMPANY H, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 21 July 1864 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Lewis H. Carpenter, Commanding (BVT Major)  
First Lieutenant: Thomas J. Spencer, (Bvt Capt)  
Second Lieutenant: Louis H. Coleman

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. John Alley	43. Mitchell Jones
2. Robert Banks	44. Silas Jones
3. Anchor Bates	45. Charles Lewis
4. John Billings	46. George Lewis
5. Charles Black	47. George Martin
6. William Black	48. Ephraim McLaughton
7. Frank Boodson	49. Alfred McPherson
8. John Brown	50. David H. Mead
9. William Bradshaw	51. John Moore
10. George Bringham	52. Ellis E. Moore
11. Charles Burns	53. Joseph Murphy
12. Kenny Carpentar	54. Barlett Mates
13. Jethro Clompton	55. William Oliver
14. Jones Cladgett	56. Simon Peter
15. Joseph Cladgett	57. William Pierce
16. James Clayton	58. John D. Price
17. Powell Cole	59. Scott Pinkle
18. Amos Coxmire	60. Frederick Rogers
19. Perry Curry	61. Amos Rose
20. Thomas Daniels	62. Jim Royston
21. Dennis Dicey	63. Sidney Sanders
22. Alfred Dixon	64. Charles Sampson
23. Robert Edmonds	65. Charles Sampson
24. Thomas Edmonds	66. Anis Smith
25. Charles Evans	67. Woods S. Taylor
26. Frank Fields	68. Britton Tillimon
27. Augustus C. Freeman	69. James T. Thistle
28. Richard Garrison	70. James H. Thomas
29. Daniel Grissen	71. John Thompson
30. Kenny Gross	72. Robert Thrash
31. Henry Harper	73. Samuel Uicey
32. Gene Harris	74. Rueben Wallace
33. Thomas Hayden	75. Grand G. Washington
34. Jerry Hogins	76. Charles Williams
35. George Hollsmeer	77. Janas White
36. John Hannover	78. Daniel Williams
37. John Hensley	79. Jerry Williams
38. Samuel Jackson	80. Joliet W. Williams
39. Ernie Johnson	81. Broslon Wilson
40. William Johnson	82. Julius Wilson
41. Benjamin Jones	83. James Wright
42. Manuel Jones	84. Jacom Ewing

Figure 8

COMPANY I, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 15 August 1867 at Fort Riley, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: George W. Graham, Commanding  
First Lieutenant: Myron J. Armick

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Josiah Braham	43. Henry Jones
2. George Augustus	44. John Jones
3. Andrew Anderson	45. Charles D. Jimison
4. John Baldrige	46. Isaac Kapps
5. Arthur Bausbry	47. Issac Kerry
6. Issac Banks	48. James Laire
7. Andrew Barnes	49. Isa Lawson
8. Andrew Bell	50. David Lee
9. Scott Bridgewater	51. John Legrand
10. Daniel Brown	52. Henry Malone
11. James Brown	53. Thomas Mailey
12. John Brown	54. Gletcheri Mathews
13. Nelson Burdette	55. Washington McCloud
14. Dock Burks	56. John Misty
15. Cycire Cook	57. Nathaniel Overall
16. Robert Coots	58. John H. Parnett
17. James Cox	59. Allen Phelps
18. John Daniels	60. William Reed
19. James Davis	61. Robert Rice
20. Ortise Duescair	62. George Sanders
21. John Dulton	63. Jacob Scott
22. Isacc Evans	64. John Scott
23. Rubers Fisher	65. John W. Scott
24. Robert Flowers	66. Henry L. Sisues
25. Frank Follierau	67. Fredrick Skidaisk
26. Henry S. Barnes	68. Thomas Small
27. James W. Gibson	69. Calton Smith
28. Thomas R. Graves	70. George Smith
29. Archer Green	71. Jacob Smith
30. John Green	72. Underhill Williams
31. John Hirbert	73. Walter Smith
32. Henry Hope	74. Robert Sorosori
33. Robert Hopkins	75. John Washington
34. Lewellen Hubbert	76. George Watkins
35. Orange Jackson	77. George Watson
36. Preston Jackson	78. Robert Weisman
37. Augustus James	79. Stock Welkey
38. Samuel Junifer	80. John Wiggins
39. John H. Johnson	81. Berg Williams
40. Peter Johnson	82. James Wilson
41. Rubin Johnson	83. Jonas Wright
42. William H. Johnson	84. Joseph Young

Figure 9

COMPANY K, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 1 September 1967 at Fort Riley, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Charles G. Cox, Commanding  
First Lieutenant: Robert G. Smithers  
Second Lieutenant: William Davis, Jr.

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. Thomas F. Allen	43. Albert Johnson
2. Wiley M. Arrilien	44. John C. Johnson
3. John Bell	45. Samuel Jones
4. Ernie Bell	46. James H. Jordon
5. George Berry	47. John Kennedy
6. William H. Bollen	48. Taylor King
7. Caesar Bradford	49. Bernhard LaRue
8. Charles W. Brown	50. James Lowe
9. James Brown	51. Charles J. Madderson
10. Darrell Brown	52. George Manny
11. Walter H. Brice	53. Pleas Mathews
12. Jessey H. Bryant	54. Candy Miles
13. Doc Burns	55. William F. Miller
14. Patrick Butler	56. Thomas Miller
15. Heiney Clary	57. William Mitchell
16. Alexnader Conyers	58. Henry J. Morrison
17. Charles Cirintee	59. James Morrison
18. Henry Crawford	60. Thomas Norton
19. George W. Crowley	61. Thomas Obey
20. Horace Crump	62. George Overton
21. Samuel Cunningham	63. Mason Persinger
22. Felix Curtis	64. John Reilly
23. Alfred Dennis	65. Henry Reynolds
24. Alonzo Dixon	66. Jeremiah Robinson
25. Frank Dixon	67. Anthony Russell
26. John Dorily	68. Joseph Sharps
27. Henry Dorsey	69. Robert Simmons
28. William Douglas	70. Frederick Smith
29. James Ellison	71. George Smith
30. Theordore Empoire	72. William Smith
31. Robert Garnett	73. Anderson Taylor
32. Richard Gormer	74. Henry Thomas
33. Alfred Goodman	75. Lorenzo Thompson
34. Lawson Grate	76. Joseph Vernon
35. Moat Hampton	77. Henry Wadkins
36. Charels Harkins	78. Frank Watson
37. John Harkins	79. Henry Weaver
38. John Henry	80. James Wills
39. James T. Holland	81. William White
40. John A. Howard	82. John W. Williams
41. Thomas H. Hurns	83. David Young
42. Oliver Jennings	84. Robert Young

Figure 10

COMPANY L, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 21 September 1867 at Fort Riley, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Robert Gray, Commanding  
Second Lieutenant: C.E. Nordstrom

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. John Adams	51. James Garrett
2. John H. Aiken	52. Perry Jennison
3. Cornelius Anderson	53. Joseph Jenkins
4. Henry Anderson	54. Henry Johnson
5. William C. Alexander	55. John Johnson
6. James H. Barnes	56. Thomas Johnson
7. Richard Bates	57. John S. Jones
8. Benjamin Bell	58. Robert K. Jones
9. John W. Bennett	59. Henry Kennedy
10. Joseph a. Blackburn	60. Peter Lewis
11. George Bady	61. York Mabrey
12. Daniel Boyd	62. Wallace Mackens
13. William Bradley	63. Martin McHue
14. James Brooks	64. Courtney Mathews
15. Robert Brown	65. Henry McCall
16. John Burton	66. Julius Miles
17. Benjamin G.W. Butler	67. William W. Miller
18. Henry Caldwell	68. Edward Miller
19. Henry Campbell	69. Basel Mitchell
20. Isaac Cartier	70. Bazle Moore
21. Henry Chapman	71. Alfred Myers
22. Alexander Cheatham	72. Calab Nelson
23. James Coleman	73. Henry Nelson
24. Elmwood Calley	74. Darrel Plumer
25. Noah Conondy	75. Joseph P. Plumer
26. Stephen W. Cotton	76. Richard Rivers
27. George Craice	77. Frigmore Roberts
28. Granklin Ceighton	78. David Robinson
29. Anthony Crook	79. Jerry Seltry
30. William H. Daggs	80. Benjamin Simons
31. Norman Dolman	81. John Thomas
32. Ralph Edmonds	82. Littleton Thomas
33. Isaiah C. Elsberry	83. William H. Thomas
34. George W. Ford	84. Jackson Terrer
35. George Fox	85. Simon Turner
36. George M. Freeman	86. George Walker
37. Peter Fuller	87. Alfred Walters
38. Joseph Gaines	88. Kearry Warfield
39. Samuel Galager	89. Joseph Weiss
40. William Gibins	90. Henry Wheeler
41. Jefferson Goldsmith	91. Alexander Williams
42. Peter Hines	92. Geroge W. Williams
43. Willie Harris	93. John Williams
44. David Haskins	94. Frank Wills
45. John Henry	95. Henry Wooden
46. John H. High	96. Abraham Wolfe
47. Edmond Holean	97. John Wright
48. Crawford Livery	98. Thomas H. Wright
49. Henry Jackson	99. Jerry Young
50. Willie H. Jackson	

Figure 11

COMPANY M, 10TH CAVALRY  
Organized 15 October 1867 at Fort Riley, Kansas

OFFICERS

Captain: Henry E. Alvord, Commanding  
First Lieutenant: Phillip L. Lee  
Second Lieutenant: William R. Harmon

ENLISTED CAVALRYMEN

1. James Anderson	51. Phillip Jones
2. Edward Ankin	52. Frank Jones
3. Jesse Becheres	53. James Kelly
4. Alfred Bell	54. James Kirk
5. George Biddle	55. Edward Lewis
6. William Brewster	56. George W. Lewis
7. William H. Brock	57. Gene H. Mathews
8. George H. Brown	58. John Miller
9. George Bryant	59. Jesse Montgomery
10. John H. Butler	60. Daniel Moore
11. Lewis A. Caldwell	61. Zechorah Mosley
12. Henry Clay	62. Moses Nelson
13. George Crown	63. Frederick Owens
14. Isaac S. Cornish	64. James E. Parker
15. John Darrace	65. William Plumer
16. Benjamin F. Davis	66. Augustus D. Pretty
17. James Davis	67. William L. Rector
18. William Davis	68. Alfred Richards
19. William Davis, 2nd	69. Henry R. St. John
20. Janius Dennis	70. William Sear
21. Henry Dixon	71. Alexander Scott
22. Augustus Dapson	72. James Shannon
23. James Dorsey	73. James Shields
24. Trace Dorsey	74. Franklin Smith
25. William Eddy	75. Henry Smith
26. Charles Fairholds	76. Samuel Smith
27. Isaac Fletcher	77. William Smith
28. William H. Ford	78. Morris A. Sorrie
29. Bucker Face	79. Jermiah Sullivan
30. John Frost	80. Elijah Steinton
31. Parris Gadden	81. Isiah Steward
32. James Gibbs	82. Elwood Stokes
33. John Green	83. Lyman Tasker
34. Samuel Griffin	84. Albert Taylor
35. Levi Hainer	85. James Temper
36. Harvey Hale	86. William Thomas
37. George W. Hanson	87. Daniel Turner
38. Jordan Harper	88. John Turner
39. George W. Harris	89. Neely Walker
40. Sylvester Harris	90. Joseph Wallace
41. Millon Hazard	91. Edward Washington
42. Abraham Hill	92. James Washington
43. James Hopkins	93. John Washington
44. George Hibbard	94. Nelson Wenslow
45. William Jefferson	95. Thomas White
46. Albert Jenkins	96. James Whiting
47. James Johnson	97. James Wilson
48. Marshall H. Johnson	98. Aaron Wright
49. George Johnson	99. David Young
50. Douglas Jones	

Figure 12



## CHAPTER 5 ENDNOTES

1. William Ernest Henley, "Invictus" in The Harvard Classics, English Poetry (New York: P. F. Collier, 1944), Stanza 2, lines 1-4.
2. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, September 1866, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
3. Heitman, Francis B. Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army From Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1903) p. 535 and 478.
4. Walton, George. Sentinel Of The Plains: Fort Leavenworth and the American West. (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc, 1973) p. 141.
5. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, September 1866, RG 94.
6. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson 6 October 1866, GMP.
7. Letter, General Grant to Secretary of War Stanton, 24 August 1866, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
8. Fort Leavenworth Special Orders No. 164 dated 11 October 1866, GMP.
9. Fort Leavenworth Special Orders 164 dated 11 October 1866, GMP. Also: Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, October 1866, RG94.
10. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson 19 October 1866, GMP.
11. Board of Cavalry Examiners to Colonel Grierson 19 October 1866, GMP.
12. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson 20 October 1866, GMP.
13. Sam Woodward to Grierson, 29 October 1866, GMP.

14. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson 25 October, GMP.
15. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, October 1866, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
16. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, October 1866, RG 94.
17. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, November 1866, RG 94.
18. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, November 1866, RG 94.
19. Mrs. Grierson to John Grierson, November 1866, RG 94.
20. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, December 1866, RG 94.
21. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, December 1866, RG 94.
22. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, December 1866, RG 94.
23. Colonel Grierson, "Autobiography: The Lights and Shadows of Life, Including Experiences and Remembrances of the War of Rebellion." Grierson Manuscript Papers (GMP), Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois, pgs 225 to 235. Also: Benjamin Grierson to Mrs. Grierson, 29 June 1861, Grierson Manuscript Papers (GMP), Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois.
24. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson, 2 March 1866, GMP.
25. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, January 1867, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group (RG) 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
26. Grierson, Autobiography pgs. 225-235.
27. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson, 9 January 1867, GMP.
28. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson, 9 January 1867, GMP.
29. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, January 1867, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group (RG) 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
30. S.L. Woodward to Colonel Grierson, 20 April 1867, GMP.

31. Lieutenant Alvood to Post Adjutant, Fort Leavenworth, 2 April 1867, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group 94, Selected Letters Sent Relating to Tenth Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
32. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, February 1867, RG 94.
33. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, February 1867, RG 94.
34. Colonel Grierson to CPT Carpenter, February 1867, GMP.
35. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, March 1867, RG 94.
36. Organizational Returns, Tenth Cavalry, March 1867, RG 94.
37. Colonel Grierson to Mrs. Grierson, 21 May 1867, RG 94.
38. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 11 April 1867, RG 94.
39. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, April 1867, RG 94 cited the following personnel status:
 

March monthly return total	199
April gains:	25
Officer	1
Enlisted	6
Recruits	18
April losses:	2
Desertions	2
April monthly return total	222
40. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, April 1867, RG 94.
41. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, May 1867, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group (RG) 94, National Archives, Washington, DC.
42. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, May 1867, RG 94.
43. Coffman, p. 308.
44. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 21 May 1867, GMP.

45. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 21 May 1867, GMP.
46. Rail Voucher, GMP.
47. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 22 May 1867, GMP.
48. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 24 May 1867, GMP.
49. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, May 1867, RG 94.  
The return cited the following personnel status:

April monthly return total		222
May gains:		196
Officer	0	
Enlisted	9	
Recruits	187	
May losses:		6
Desertions	4	
Deaths	2	
May monthly return totals		412

50. Mrs. Grierson to Colonel Grierson, 25 May 1867, GMP.  
Also: Lieutenant Alvood to Benjamin Grierson 24 May 1867, GMP.
51. Department of Missouri, Special Orders 122 dated 1 June 1867 and Special Orders 136 dated 5 June 1867, War Department, Adjutant General Officer's Record Group (RG) 94. Letter Received, National Archives, Washington, DC.
52. Fort Leavenworth Post Returns, June 1867, RG 94.
53. Colonel Grierson to John Grierson, 25 June 1867, GMP
54. Colonel Grierson to Fort Leavenworth Post Adjutant, Lieutenant Ronsall 21 June 1867, GMP.
55. Fort Leavenworth Adjutant to Colonel Grierson, 22 June 1867, GMP.
56. Colonel Hoffman to Captain Robinson, 23 June 1867, GMP.
57. Fort Leavenworth Court Martial Charges of Colonel Benjamin Grierson dated 23 June 1867, GMP.

58. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, June 1867, RG 94.

The regimental return cited the following personnel status

May monthly return total	412
June gains:	208
Officers	4
Enlisted	12
Recruits	192
June losses:	5
Desertions	2
Deaths	3
June monthly return totals	615

59. Organizational Return, Tenth Cavalry, July 1867, RG 94.

The regimental return for July 1867 cited the following status

June monthly return total	615
July gains:	147
Officers	0
Enlisted	6
Recruits	141
July losses:	27
Desertions	
Deaths	27
July monthly return totals	735

## CHAPTER SIX

### CONCLUSION

The Army Reorganization Act established the Tenth Cavalry as one of six black regiments. This study documented the early history of the Tenth's formation at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from 25 September 1866 to 5 August 1867 by focusing on the regiment's personnel and the events surrounding the activation of the individual companies.

In compiling this study, I researched primary sources, Fort Leavenworth post returns, regimental records and personal papers. Previous historians had not chronicled in detail, the Tenth's early military history. This study fills a void in the regiment's early history.

The central figures in the Tenth's early history were the Tenth Regimental Commander, Colonel Benjamin Grierson, the Third Infantry Regimental Commander and Fort Leavenworth Post Commander, Colonel William Hoffman, the white officers of the Tenth, and the black enlisted men of the regiment. The actions and interactions between these actors constituted more than military history. The

formation of the Tenth was also social and political history. By authorizing the establishment of the black regiments in the Army Reorganization Act, Congress designated the Army to become an agent of social change.

The Army hierarchy supported the formation of the Tenth, and numerous events during the year demonstrated the commitment and resolve of Generals Grant, Sherman and Hancock to the successful formation of the Tenth. This support was critical to the regiment's formation for without the senior officer commitment the regiment could not have been successfully organized. In spite of the bravery black soldiers demonstrated during the Civil War, the military and society's view of the military quickly returned to the Old Army customs.

The racial prejudices of the era found expression in the post commander at Fort Leavenworth. Both officers and soldiers of the Tenth experienced discrimination, ill treatment and abuse during the first year in required military duties, activities and housing. The early move to Fort Riley directly resulted from the events at Fort Leavenworth.

Colonel Hoffman emerged from contemporary accounts as a prejudiced, discriminatory post commander who terrorized the Tenth. While all of Hoffman's actions may not have been a direct result of his racial attitudes, most were. A few of the events, however, may have

resulted from the rivalry between two equal Brevet officers, a common action during this period following the Civil War. Records indicated Hoffman and Grierson were of the same rank.

The major emphasis of the story detailed the events and the difficulties encountered in the assignment of personnel to the regiment. Officers rejected assignments to the regiment, while the cavalrymen were abused by both white officers and enlisted men during the recruitment process and on the post. The study documented the leadership and influence of Colonel Grierson, who emerged as a professional and caring commander. Grierson's leadership of the regiment validated his Congressional testimony that he was committed to the improvement of life conditions for blacks. In contrast, Hoffman opposed the use of blacks as soldiers, and exercised every means to discredit and demoralize Grierson and the Tenth. The relations between the two commanders finally deteriorated when Hoffman attempted to court-martial Grierson. Headquarters intervened, and the Tenth was subsequently transferred. The months spent at Fort Leavenworth were difficult for the men, however the discrimination they experienced served to unite the unit toward a common goal.

Finally, the Tenth departed Leavenworth to garrison at Fort Riley. As a result of the organization's formation at Leavenworth, the regiment performed its first



missions successfully. For the next two decades the units of the Tenth fought Indians, and helped to build the West.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend further research and documentation be conducted of the Tenth's accomplishments at Fort Riley. An Adjutant's register was recently discovered which would provide previously unavailable information. Documentation of the Fort Riley events and records would complete the early history of the regiment.

The Leavenworth library recently initiated a project to catalogue the city newspaper, the Leavenworth Times. The scheduled completion date is 1992. Recommend the Leavenworth Times be used as a source once the cataloguing is completed.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

#### AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

During the research for the study, I located limited information on the black cavalymen; also, none of the references were comprehensive. The regimental history by MAJ E. L. N. Glass, entitled The Tenth Cavalry, cites

few references on the early history of the regiment, nor did the reference provide details on the cavalrymen. The black cavalrymen made this unit unique, yet few of the works referenced any of the enlisted soldiers. The names of the cavalrymen initially assigned to each company are included in this study. Recommend further research and studies detailing the personal histories of the original Buffalo Soldiers in the Tenth from 1867 to 1890.

Within the past two decades, authors wrote numerous accounts on the Buffalo Soldiers. All of these works provided an overview of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, and focused on the officers of the regiment. Why did this particular regiment have the highest retention rate and the lowest desertion rate in the United States Army? A comprehensive history of the regiment does not exist. Recommend a detailed history of the Tenth Regiment be compiled that incorporates the military and social history of the enlisted soldiers of the regiment.

## APPENDIXES

## APPENDIX A

### 10th CAVALRY Heraldic Items

#### BADGE

Description On a heraldic wreath and sable, a buffalo statant proper. On a scroll of the second fimbriated of the first the motto Ready and Forward of the like.

Symbolism: Black and gold have long been used as the regimental colors. The buffalo has likewise been the emblem of the regiment for many years, having its origin in the term Buffalo Soldiers applied by the Indian to Negro regiment. The regimental badge, in lieu of a coat of arms, is used as the crest on the organizational color.

#### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the badge of the regiment.

#### LINEAGE AND HONORS

##### LINEAGE

Constituted 28 July 1866 in the Regular Army as 10th Cavalry. Organized 21 September 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Assigned to 1st Cavalry Division 13 September 1921-18 December 1922. Assigned to 2d Cavalry Division 24 March 1923-15 August 1927. Assigned to 3d Cavalry Division 15 August 1927-10 October 1940. Assigned 10 October 1940 to 2d Cavalry Division. Inactivated 20 March 1944 in North Africa.

Redesignated 20 October 1950 as 510th Tank Battalion and relieved from assignment to 2d Cavalry Division. Activated 27 November 1950 at Camp Polk, Louisiana. Inactivated 2 May 1958 in Germany.

Reorganized and redesignated 25 June 1958 as 10th Cavalry, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms regimental System (headquarters and Headquarter Company, 510th Tank Battalion, redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Troops, 10th Cavalry).

#### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Indian Wars	Mexican Expedition
*Comanches	*Mexico 1916-1917
Apaches	
New Mexico 1880	World War II
Texas 1880	*European-African-Middle Eastern
	Theater without inscription
War With Spain	
*Santiago	Vietnam
	Counteroffensive, Phase II
Philippine Insurrection	*Counteroffensive, Phase III
Without inscription	*Tet Counteroffensive

#### DECORATIONS

None.

APPENDIX B

# STATE OF KANSAS

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6123

A RESOLUTION designating July 28, 1990, as Buffalo Soldiers Day in Kansas.

WHEREAS, On July 28, 1990, a ground breaking ceremony will be held at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as the first step in construction of a Buffalo Soldier Monument; and

WHEREAS, The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, the Buffalo Soldiers, were created by an Act of Congress on July 28, 1866. The regiments were composed of African-American soldiers and played a significant role in settling the western and southwestern regions of this Nation. They escorted and guarded wagon trains, surveyed roads, built forts, protected settlers and fought Indians who gave them their name as a Badge of Honor. Several distinguished white officers, including General John Pershing and Harry Truman served with these regiments; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers served proudly, and although they were given the worst equipment and food, lived in inadequate housing and were subjected to discrimination by their fellow white soldiers, had high morale and the lowest desertion rate in the Army. Thirteen Buffalo Soldiers received the Medal of Honor, The Buffalo Soldiers also captured Geronimo; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldier memorial project was originated several years ago by General Colin Powell, now Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who at that time, was a Brigadier General and the Deputy Commander of Fort Leavenworth. The monument will be a 16-foot bronze statue of a Buffalo Soldier on his mount, with rifle in hand, two ponds and a waterfall, and a marker commemorating the contributions made by the soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries. The site chosen for the monument is off Grant Avenue, overlooking Smith Lake—the original site where the Buffalo Soldiers were housed in tents in the late 1800s and early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, Ground breaking ceremony participants will include a cavalry regiment and Buffalo Soldier veterans. There will be a golf tournament and a luncheon following the ceremony. The anticipated dedication date for this project is July 28, 1992. Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we designate July 28, 1990, as Buffalo Soldiers Day in Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Vice-Chairman, Carlton Philpot, Buffalo Soldier Monument Committee, P.O. Box 3372, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027.

House Resolution No. 6123 was sponsored by Representatives Clyde D. Graeber, Joann Flower, Martha Jenkins and Al Ramirez.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

*April 26, 1990*  
*James D. Graeber*  
Speaker of the House  
*Donat S. Jones*  
Chief Clerk of the House.

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